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Amending the Immigration and
Nationality Act (for Amerasian Children)
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EVENT: Signing of Bill Amending the Immigration and Nationality Act (for Amerasian Children)
DELIVERY DATE: ~~Thursday, October 14 1972~~
Friday 20 - 10am
DUE TO BAKSHIAN: ~~Wednesday, October 13 - noon~~
Friday 20 - 3pm
DUE TO DARMAN: ~~Wednesday, October 13 - 3 pm~~

WRITER:

Dana Rohrabacher
~~Mari Maseng~~

RESEARCHER:

Julie Cave

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 22, 1982

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
IN SIGNING CEREMONY FOR
IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT AMENDMENT

October 22, 1982

The Roosevelt Room

2:34 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: This is a happy occasion, I think, for all of us here. Today I'm signing into law legislation that comes to grips with a problem that I think should touch every American's heart.

During the last three decades when tens of thousands of our airmen, soldiers and Marines and sailors went to Southeast Asia and Korea to prevent aggression and protect the vital interests of our country, a number of Amerasian children were born.

And when the fathers returned to the United States, far too often innocent children were left without parent or without a country. Through no fault of their own, these children have frequently lived in the most wretched of circumstances and often have been ostracized in the lands of their birth.

Today it gives me great pleasure to sign Senate Bill 1698, a major step toward facing up to the moral responsibility that we can't ignore. This good and humane law -- and it is that -- recognizes the rightful claim of Amerasian children to American citizenship and permits their entry into our country after arrangements have been made for their care with families or with private organizations.

The sponsors of the legislation, Senator Jeremiah Denton and Congressman Stuart McKinney deserve a special word of thanks for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them. And also my thanks to Father Alfred Kean who worked so hard for this bill. And really he brought it to the government's attention. Now he is not here, but his sister Judy is here, and with her are Julie and Scott Tripp, the adopted children of her sister and we also have Eddie Chey and Jeannie Choi who are students at Gonzaga University in Spokane. I'll bet they found out already that that is where Bing Crosby was a student. (Laughter.)

Americans have always opened their hearts to those coming from distant lands to make a new life here, to live in freedom and to improve their lot. In this case I think we should go a step further. Instead of saying welcome to these children, we should say welcome home.

And now I am going to sign this bill and make it official.

(The President signs the legislation.)

And I do so with a pen that can only write one word to make sure that it is the only place -- And there it is. It is all legal. (Applause.)

END

2:37 P.M. EDT

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

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.

###

(ROHRABACHER)

OCTOBER 22, 1982
2:30 P.M.

SIGNING OF S. 1698
AMERASIAN CHILDREN ACT

TDAY I'M SIGNING..LAW LEGISLATN THT
COMES..GRIPS WITH..PROBLM..SHLD TOUCH
EVERY AM's HEART. DURING..LST 3 DECADES,
WHEN TENS OF 1,000's ..R AIRMEN, SOLDIERS &
SAILORS WENT TO S.E. ASIA & KOREA..
PREVNT AGGRESSN &..PROTECT..VITAL INTRSTS
OF R CO., A NO. ..AMERASIAN CHILDREN..BORN.
WHEN..FATHRS RETURNED...U.S., FAR TOO OFTEN
INNOCENT CHLDRN..LEFT WITHOUT..PARENT &
W/OUT..CO.

THRU NO FAULT..THEIR OWN, THS CHLDRN
HV FREQUENTLY LIVED IN..MOST WRETCHED OF
CONDITNs & OFTEN HV BN OSTRACIZED IN..LANDS
OF..BIRTH.

TDAY..GVs ME..PLSR..SIGN S. 1698,..
MAJOR STEP TOWRD FACING UP...MORAL RSPONSBILT
WE CN'T IGNORE. THS...GD & HUMANE LAW.
IT RECOGNIZs..RIGHTFL CLAIM..AM-ASIAN CHLDRN
TO AM. CITZNSHP & PRMITS THR ENTRY INTO R CO.
AFTER ARRANGEMNTS FOR..CARE HV BN MADE WITH
THEIR FAMILIES OR..PRIV. ORGANIZATNs.

THE SPONSRS..LEGISLATN, SEN. JEREMIAH
DENTON & CONGRSMN STEWART MCKINNEY,
DSERV..SPECL WORD..THNKS FOR..EFRTs TO
REUNITE THS CHLDRN..THS WHO WL LOVE &
CARE FOR THM. & ALSO THNKS..FATHR ALFRED
KEANE..WORKED SO HARD FOR..BILL.

AMs HV ALWYS OPENED..HEARTS..THS COMING
FRM DISTNT LANDS TO MAKE..NEW LIFE HERE,
TO LIVE..FREEDM & TO IMPROVE..LOT. IN THS
CASE, WE SHLD GO..STEP FURTHR. INSTD..SAYING
WELCM TO THS CHLDRN, ..SHLD SAY--WELCM HOME.

& NOW, ..GVs ME..PLSR..SIGN..BILL.

#

(NSC)

OCTOBER 22, 1982 - 1:50 P.M.

DEPARTURE STATEMENT: KING HASSAN & ARAB LEAGUE DELEGATION

OUR MEETING TODAY WITH KING HASSAN AND HIS DELEGATION WAS AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE ALONG THE ROAD TOWARD OUR COMMON OBJECTIVE OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. KING HASSAN AND HIS COLLEAGUES HAVE BEEN FORTHRIGHT AND HELPFUL TO US IN CLARIFYING THE POSITIONS OF THE ARAB LEAGUE ADOPTED LAST MONTH IN FEZ, MOROCCO. I HAVE CLARIFIED FOR HIS MAJESTY AND HIS DELEGATION A NUMBER OF POINTS CONCERNING THE PEACE INITIATIVE I ANNOUNCED ON SEPTEMBER 1ST.

WE LISTENED TO ONE ANOTHER'S VIEWS IN A SPIRIT OF GOOD WILL, UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUAL RESPECT. PEACE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST MEANS ACHIEVING SECURITY FOR ALL THE STATES OF THAT TROUBLED REGION -- SECURITY FOR THE ARAB STATES AND SECURITY FOR ISRAEL -- AND A SENSE OF IDENTITY FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. WE MUST PURSUE THESE GOALS RIGOROUSLY, THOUGHTFULLY, AND IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH ALL HERE, LIKE OUR GUESTS TODAY, WHO SHARE THE HOPE OF PEACE. OUR MUTUAL GOAL IS PEACE AND THE ROAD TO IT LIES THROUGH THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, WHICH I HOPE CAN BE RESUMED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

#

RR- no change
(Rohrabacher/AB)
October 20, 1982
4:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF S. 1698 AMENDING THE
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT
(FOR AMERASIAN CHILDREN)
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1982

Today I am signing into law legislation that comes to grips with a problem that should touch every American's heart. During the last three decades when tens of thousands of our airmen, soldiers and sailors went to Southeast Asia and Korea to prevent aggression and to protect the vital interests of our country, a number of Amerasian children were born. When their fathers returned to the United States, far too often innocent children were left without a parent and without a country.

Through no fault of their own, these children have frequently lived in the most wretched of conditions and often have been ostracized in the lands of their birth.

Today it gives me great pleasure to sign S. 1698, a major step toward facing up to a moral responsibility we cannot ignore. This is a good and humane law. It recognizes the rightful claim of Amerasian children to American citizenship and permits their entry into our country after arrangements for their care have been made with their families or with private organizations.

The sponsors of this legislation, Senator Jeremiah Denton and Congressman Stewart McKinney, deserve a special word of thanks for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them. And also thanks to Father Alfred Keane who worked so hard for this bill.

Americans have always opened their hearts to those coming from distant lands to make a new life here, to live in freedom and to improve their lot. In this case, we should go a step further. Instead of saying welcome to these children, we should say . . . welcome home.

And now, it gives me great pleasure to sign this bill.

Julie

(Rohrabacher/AB)
October 20, 1982
4:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF S. 1698 AMENDING THE
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT
(FOR AMERASIAN CHILDREN)
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1982

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Through no fault of their own, these children have frequently lived in the most wretched of conditions and often have been ostracized in the lands of their birth.

Today it gives me great pleasure to sign S. 1698, a major step ~~to~~ ^{and} facing up to a moral responsibility we cannot ignore. This is a good and humane law. It recognizes the rightful claim of Amerasian children to American citizenship and permits their entry into our country after arrangements for their care have been made with their families or with private organizations.

The sponsors of this legislation, Senator Jeremiah Denton and Congressman Stewart McKinney, deserve a special word of thanks for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them. And also thanks to Father Alfred Keane who worked so hard for this bill.

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And now, it gives me great pleasure to sign this bill.

(Rohrabacher/AB)
October 20, 1982
4:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF S. 1698 AMENDING THE
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT
(FOR AMERASIAN CHILDREN)
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And now, it gives me great pleasure to sign this bill.

Master

(Rohrabacher/AB)
October 20, 1982
10:00 a.m.

N (in)
SS A's

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF S. 1698 AMENDING THE
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT
(FOR AMERASIAN CHILDREN)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1982

X

Today I am signing into law legislation that comes to grips with a problem that should touch every American's heart. During the last three decades when tens of thousands of our airmen, soldiers and sailors went to Southeast Asia and Korea to prevent aggression and to protect the vital interests of our country, a number of Amerasian children were born. When their fathers returned to the United States, far too often innocent children were left without a parent and without a country.

Through no fault of their own, these children have frequently lived in the most wretched of conditions and often have been ostracized in the lands of their birth.

Today it gives me great pleasure to sign S. 1698, ^a the ~~first~~ ^{major} step to facing up to a moral responsibility we can no longer ignore. This is a good and humane law. It recognizes the rightful claim of Amerasian children to American citizenship and permits their entry into our country after arrangements for their care have been made with their families or with private organizations.

X

The sponsors of this legislation, Senator Jeremiah Denton and Congressman Stewart McKinney, deserve a special word of thanks for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them. And also thanks to Father Alfred Keane who ~~did so much to make sure this legis~~ worked so hard for this bill.

Americans have always opened their hearts to those coming from distant lands to make a new life here, to live in freedom and to improve their lot. In this case, we should go a step further. Instead of saying welcome to these children, we should say . . . welcome home.

And now, it gives me great pleasure to sign this bill.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 21, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR ARAM BAKSHIAN
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
AND DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING *FF (2/28/82)*
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Draft Presidential Remarks for Signing of
S. 1698 -- Immigration and Nationality Act
(Amerasian Children)

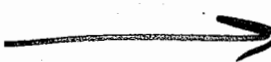
Our office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks, which appear to be quite suitable for the occasion, and have no legal or other substantive objections to them.

Dana
OCT 20 1982

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/20/82 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 a.m. THURSDAY

SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS FOR SIGNING OF S. 1698 - (AMERASIAN CHILDREN) - IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FULLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GERGEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HARPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JENKINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS	WILLIAMSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOLE 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VON DAMM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BRADY/SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>BAKSHIAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Remarks:

Please forward any edits/comments directly to Aram Bakshian, with a copy to my office, by 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, October 21. Thank you.

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x2702)

Response:

October 21, 1982

Father Kene
Endorse OLA's suggestion that the Catholic priest, who worked so hard for this bill, be included in the President's thanks.


Elizabeth H. Dole

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/20/82 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 10:00 a.m. THURSDAY

SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS FOR SIGNING OF S. 1698 - (AMERASIAN CHILDREN) - IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FULLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GERGEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HARPER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JENKINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS	WILLIAMSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VON DAMM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BRADY/SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>BAKSHIAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Remarks:

Please forward any edits/comments directly to Aram Bakshian, with a copy to my office, by 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, October 21. Thank you.

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x2702)

Response:

(Rohrabacher/AB)
October 20, 1982
10:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF S. 1698 AMENDING THE
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT
(FOR AMERASIAN CHILDREN)
OCTOBER 22, 1982

Today I am signing into law legislation that comes to grips with a problem that should touch every American's heart. During the last three decades when tens of thousands of our airmen, soldiers and sailors went to Southeast Asia and Korea to prevent aggression and to protect the vital interests of our country, a number of Amerasian children were born. When their fathers returned to the United States, far too often innocent children were left without a parent and without a country.

Through no fault of their own, these children have frequently lived in the most wretched of conditions and often have been ostracized in the lands of their birth.

Today it gives me great pleasure to sign S. 1698, the first step to facing up to a moral responsibility we can no longer ignore. This is a good and humane law. It recognizes the rightful claim of Amerasian children to American citizenship and permits their entry into our country after arrangements for their care have been made with their families or with private organizations.

The sponsors of this legislation, Senator Jeremiah Denton and Congressman Stewart McKinney, deserve a special word of thanks for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them.

Americans have always opened their hearts to those coming from distant lands to make a new life here, to live in freedom and to improve their lot. In this case, we should go a step further. Instead of saying welcome to these children, we should say . . . welcome home.

And now, it gives me great pleasure to sign this bill.

Julie

(Rohrabacher/AB)
October 20, 1982
9:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF S. 1698 AMENDING THE
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT
(FOR AMERASIAN CHILDREN)
OCTOBER 22, 1982

Today I am signing into law legislation that comes to grips with a problem that should touch every American's heart. During the last three decades when tens of thousands of our airmen, soldiers and sailors went to Southeast Asia and Korea to prevent aggression and to protect the vital interests of our country, a number of Amerasian children were born. When their fathers returned to the United States, far too often innocent children were left without a parent and without a country.

Through no fault of their own, these ~~Amerasian~~ children have frequently lived in the most wretched of conditions and often have been ostracized in the lands of their birth.

Today it gives me great pleasure to sign S. 1698, the first step to facing up to a moral responsibility we can no longer ignore. This is a good and humane law. It recognizes the rightful claim of ^{Amerasian} ~~these~~ children to American citizenship and permits their entry into our country after arrangements for their care have been made with their families or with private organizations.

The sponsors of this legislation, Senator Jeremiah Denton and Congressman Stewart McKinney, deserve a special word of thanks for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them.

AB

(Rohrabacher/AB)
October 20, 1982
9:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF S. 1698 AMENDING THE
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT
(FOR AMERASIAN CHILDREN)
OCTOBER 22, 1982

Today I am signing into law legislation that comes to grips with a problem that should touch every American's heart. During the last three decades when tens of thousands of our airmen, soldiers and sailors went to Southeast Asia and Korea to prevent aggression and to protect the vital interests of our country, a number of Amerasian children were born. When their fathers returned to the United States, far too often innocent children were left without a parent and without a country.

Through no fault of their own, these Amerasian children have frequently lived in the most wretched of conditions and often have been ostracised^z in the lands of their birth.

Today it gives me great pleasure to sign S. 1698, the first step to facing up to a moral responsibility we can no longer ignore. This is a good and humane law. It recognizes the rightful claim of these children to American citizenship and permits their entry into our country after arrangements for their care have been made with their families or with private organizations.

The sponsors of this legislation, Senator Jeremiah Denton and Congressman Stewart McKinney, deserve a special word of thanks for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them.

Americans have always opened their hearts to those coming from distant lands to make a new life here, to live in freedom and to improve their lot. In this case, we should go a step further. Instead of saying welcome to these children, we should say . . . welcome home.

And now, it gives me great pleasure to sign this bill.

(Rohrabacher/AB)
October 20, 1982
9:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF S. 1698 AMENDING THE
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(FOR AMERASIAN CHILDREN)
OCTOBER 22, 1982

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Today it gives me great pleasure to sign S. 1698, the first step to facing up to a moral responsibility we can no longer ignore. This is a good and humane law. It recognizes the rightful claim of these children to American citizenship and permits their entry into our country after arrangements for their care have been made with their families or with private organizations.

The sponsors of this legislation, Senator Jeremiah Denton and Congressman Stewart McKinney, deserve a special word of thanks for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them.

Americans have always opened their hearts to those coming from distant lands to make a new life here, to live in freedom and to improve their lot. In this case, we should go a step further. Instead of saying welcome to these children, we should say . . . welcome home.

And now, it gives me great pleasure to sign this bill.

Call - legis Affairs
633-2141
2111

Yolanda Brand

(Rohrabacher/AB)
October 19, 1982
5:00 p.m.

Julie

WJ and Helmer

S 1698

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF ~~BILL~~ AMENDING THE IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT (FOR AMERASIAN CHILDREN) OCTOBER 22, 1982

legis
3-2111
Yolanda Brand

Today I am signing into law legislation that comes to grips with a problem that should touch every American's heart. During the past ~~two~~ ^{three} decades when ~~tens~~ ^{tens} of thousands of our airmen, soldiers and sailors went to Southeast Asia and Korea to prevent aggression and to protect the vital interests of ~~their~~ ^{our} country, a number of Amerasian children were born. When their fathers returned to the United States, far too often innocent children were left without a parent and without a country.

WJ and Helmer 741-43

Brit -
- V. IX
- Vietnam,
Cambodia
land

Though no fault of their own, these Amerasian children have frequently lived in the most wretched of conditions and often have been ostracised in the lands of their birth.

7-11
2-11

Sept 25, 1972
2361

Today it gives me great pleasure to sign S. 1698, the first step to facing up to a moral responsibility we can no longer ignore. This is a good and humane law. ^{The} ~~Its~~ ^{of this legislation} sponsors, Senator Jeremiah Denton and Congressman Stewart McKinney, deserve a special word of thanks for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them.

7/25/82
2361
10/1

Affairs
med
50

~~This~~ ^{It} law recognizes the rightful claim of these children to American citizenship and permits their entry into our country after arrangements have been made with their families or with private organizations for their care.

7-11
2-11

Americans have always opened their hearts to those coming from distant lands to make a new life here, to live in freedom and to improve their lot. In this case, we should go a step further. Instead of saying welcome to these children, we should say ~~...welcome home.~~

AM

And now, it gives me great pleasure to sign this bill.

/

Aron's changes are in.

Waiting for Julie

(Rohrabacher/AB)
October 19, 1982
5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF BILL AMENDING THE
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT
(FOR AMERASIAN CHILDREN)
OCTOBER 22, 1982

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Today it gives me great pleasure to sign S. 1698, the first step to facing up to a moral responsibility we can no longer ignore. This is a good and humane law. Its sponsors, Senator Jeremiah Denton and Congressman Stewart McKinney, deserve a special word of thanks for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them.

This law recognizes the rightful claim of these children to American citizenship and permits their entry into our country after arrangements have been made with their families or with private organizations for their care.

Americans have always opened their hearts to those coming from distant lands to make a new life here, to live in freedom and to improve their lot. In this case, we should go a step further. Instead of saying welcome to these children, we should say...welcome home.

And now, it gives me great pleasure to sign this bill.

(Rohrabacher) ^{AB}
October 19, 1982
3:30 p.m.

AB

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF BILL AMENDING THE
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT
(FOR AMERASIAN CHILDREN)
OCTOBER 22, 1982

Today I ^{am} ~~will~~ sign ^{into} law legislation that comes to grips with a problem that should touch every American's heart. During the last two decades when ^{hundreds of thousands of} our airmen, soldiers and sailors went to Southeast Asia and Korea ~~to~~ to prevent aggression and to protect the vital interests of their country, ^{a number of Amerasian children} ~~many children were fathered~~ ^{were born.} ~~by those many men so far away from home.~~ And ^{if} when the fathers returned to the United States, far too often innocent children were left without a parent and without a country.

~~Through no fault of their own,~~
These Amerasian children, whose parentage is found here and in Asia, ^{frequently} ~~frequently~~ have been living in the most wretched of conditions and often have been ^{ostracised in} ~~the victim of vicious ostracism,~~ ^{the lands of their birth.} ~~their only crime being fathered by an American.~~

Today it gives me great pleasure to sign S. 1698, the first step to facing up to a moral responsibility we can no longer ignore. This is a good and humane law. Its sponsors, Senator Jeremiah Denton and Congressman Stewart McKinney, ^{special} deserve a word of thanks for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them.

This law recognizes the rightful claim of these children to American citizenship and permits their entry into our country after arrangements have been made with their family ^{ies} or with private organizations for their care.

Americans have always had an open heart ^{ed their} ^{to} for those coming
from distant lands to make a new life here, to live in freedom
and to improve their lot. In this case, ^{we should go a step further. Instead} we should not say
^{of saying} welcome to these children, ^{we should say} but ~~instead~~ welcome home.

~~Now I will get on with the signing.~~

And now, it gives me great pleasure to sign this bill.

(Rohrabacher)
October 19, 1982
3:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF BILL AMENDING THE
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT
(FOR AMERASIAN CHILDREN)
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Today I will sign into law legislation that comes to grips with a problem that should touch every American's heart. During the last two decades when our airmen, soldiers and sailors went to Southeast Asia and Korea, to prevent aggression and to protect the vital interests of their country many children were fathered by those many men so far away from home. And when the fathers returned to the United States, far too often innocent children were left without a parent and without a country.

These Amerasian children, whose parentage is found here and in Asia, frequently have been living in the most wretched of conditions and often have been the victim of vicious austracism, their only crime being fathered by an American.

Today it gives me great pleasure to sign S. 1698, the first step to facing up to a moral responsibility we can no larger ignore. This is a good and humane law. Its sponsors, Senator Jeremiah Denton and Congressman Stewart McKinney, deserve a word of thanks for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them.

This law recognizes the rightful claim of these children to American citizenship and permits their entry into our country after arrangements have been made with their family or with private organizations for their care.

Americans have always had an open heart for those coming from distant lands to make a new life here, to live in freedom and to improve their lot. In this case, we should not say welcome to these children, but instead...welcome home.

Now I will get on with the signing.

(Rohrabacher)
October 13, 1982
5:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SIGNING OF BILL AMENDING THE
IMMIGRATION & NATIONALITY ACT
(FOR AMERASIAN CHILDREN)
OCTOBER 14, 1982

Today I will sign into law legislation that comes to grips with a problem that should touch every American's heart. During the last two decades when our airmen, soldiers and sailors went to Southeast Asia and Korea, to prevent aggression and to protect the vital interests of their country many children were fathered by those many men so far away from home. And when the fathers returned to the United States, far too often innocent children were left without a parent and without a country.

These Amerasian children, whose parentage is found here and in Asia, have frequently been living in the most wretched of conditions and have often been the victim of vicious austracism, their only crime being fathered by an American.

Today it gives me great pleasure to sign S. 1698, the first step to facing up to a moral responsibility we can no larger ^{ignore} sidestep. This is a good and humane law. Its sponsors, Senator Jeremiah Denton and Congressman Stewart McKinney, deserve a word of thanks for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them.

This law recognizes the rightful claim of these children to American citizenship and permits their entry into our country after arrangements have been made with their family or with private organizations for their care.

Americans have always had an open heart for those coming from distant lands to make a new life here, to live in freedom and to improve their lot. In this case, we should not say welcome to these children, but instead...welcome home.

Now I will get on with the signing.

Today I will sign into law legislation that comes to grips with a problem that should touch every American's heart. During the last two decades ^{when our} American airmen, soldiers and sailors ^{went} were sent to ^{Southeast} Asia to prevent aggression and to protect the vital interests of their country ^{and Korea}. ~~A predictable result of stationing large numbers of healthy young men far from home is the birth of children fathered by our military personnel.~~ ^{men so far away from home} And when the fathers ^{went} returned home far too often ^{by those many} innocent children were left ^{with} without a ~~country and for at times~~ without a parent. ~~a parent and frequent~~ without a country.

These ~~children who~~ Amerasian children, whose parentage is found here and in Asia, have frequently been the victims of a vicious ~~autroicism in their Asian~~ Some of them have been living in the most wretched of conditions ^{and have often been the victim of vicious austracism,} Their only crime ~~was~~ being fathered by an American.

Today it gives me great pleasure to sign S.1698, ~~With this bill~~ the first step to facing up to a moral responsibility ~~we should we can~~ ^{holaze} ~~can not in good~~ ^{not} conscious sidestep. ~~The Amerasian children effected~~ ^{Its sponsors, Jeremiah} by this law. This is a good and humane law. ^{Senator Jeremiah} Denton and Congressman ^{Stewart} McKinney ^{deserve} deserve a word of thanks for ~~sheparding this~~ ~~bill through Congress~~ for their efforts to reunite these children with those who will love and care for them.

This law ~~does nothing more than~~ recognizes the rightful claim of these children to American citizenship and permits their entry ^{our country} into the United States after ^{arrangements have been made with} ~~actions have been taken to insure~~ commitments from their family or with private organizations for their care.

Americans have always had an open heart for those coming from distant lands to make themselves a new life here, to live in freedom and to

improve their lot. In this case, we should not say welcome to these children, but instead...welcome home.

Now I will get on with the signing.

PARTICIPANTS LIST

The President
The Vice President

Senator Jeremiah Denton (R-Alabama)
Senator Alan Simpson (R-Wyoming)
Senator Strom Thurmond (R-South Carolina)
Senator Carl Levin (D-Michigan)

Congressman Stewart McKinney (R-Connecticut)
Congressman Romano Mazzoli (D-Kentucky)
Congressman Hamilton Fish (R-New York)

Father Alfred Keane, Maryknoll Missionary
Mrs. Connie Boll, Friends of the Children
John Shade, Pearl S. Buck Foundation

Selected Parents and Amerasian Children

Kenneth M. Duberstein
M. B. Oglesby, Jr.

MEMORANDUM

Nari

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 13, 1982

TO: ANN GUTHRIE
FROM: NANCY KENNEDY *UK*

The attached Proposed Signing Statement on Amerasian children, which was submitted by Justice, may be helpful to you as you are preparing Thursday's remarks.

Proposed Signing Statement

We are a nation of immigrants and their children. The instinctive generosity in the American spirit is the special heritage of a land that has welcomed so many to our shores seeking liberty and opportunity. The Act of Congress to which today I set my hand is in that best tradition of our country.

The Act offers a home here to many with a special and rightful place in our hearts -- American children born in Asia, the sons and daughters of Americans who carried the cause of freedom to East Asian shores. Forgotten by our laws, these children could never be forgotten by our people.

Often the subjects of discrimination in the countries of their birth, the Amerasian children are by this law welcomed to the country of their fathers. This is a good and humane law, and one for which its sponsors, Senator Denton and Congressman McKinney, have their nation's gratitude.

We cannot rest, however, in our efforts to ensure wise and humane immigration laws. While we will maintain our proud tradition of accepting immigrants and refugees to our shores, not even this great and prosperous nation can accept all who would come here. In fairness to our own people, not all of whom have realized the dreams that brought their fathers here, we must act to regain control of our borders and our destiny.

Legislation now pending in the Congress, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1982, would accomplish necessary reforms of our

immigration laws to curb illegal immigration, while sustaining legal migration within fair and realistic limits.

I strongly urge the Congress to enact this important bipartisan legislation when it returns from the fall recess. If it does, the promise we make today to the Amerasian children and the promise our great experiment in liberty has held for those who came before surely will endure.

Opening a Door To Amerasians

For thousands of children and young adults in Asia, the United States is more than a symbolic fatherland. But until last week, Washington took little official notice of the offspring of Americans, mostly servicemen, in that part of the world.

Just ~~hours~~ before it adjourned, Congress approved a bill, which the President was expected to sign, that will make it possible for many such children to immigrate to America. Unlike the few Amerasian children who have already made the trip, those affected by the bill are unknown or unacknowledged by their fathers.

Supporters of the bill said the United States was facing up to its moral responsibility for the well-being of children who were stigmatized in the countries of their birth because of their mixed race and American parentage. They said the immigration of perhaps 100,000 eligible Amerasians would cost taxpayers nothing — the new arrivals must have a five-year guarantee of financial support from an American family. Eligibility was limited to people fathered by American citizens and born in Korea, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam after 1950.

There was no progress, meanwhile, on a comprehensive measure that would overhaul the nation's immigration law. The bill, which includes provisions for gentler treatment of illegal aliens, is expected to die if Congress does not consider it in its post-election session.

Carlyle C. Douglas,
Caroline Rand Herron
and Michael Wright

MIT 10/10/82

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

RECEIVED [unclear]
OFFICE 10/5/82
Date

(1)

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

October 4, 1982

TO: WILLIAM K. SADLEIR, DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: KENNETH M. DUBERSTEIN *K.D.*

REQUEST: Bill signing ceremony for S. 1698, a bill that amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to give preferential treatment in the admission of "Amerasian" children.

PURPOSE: To call attention to the plight of these children and to make known legislated solutions.

BACKGROUND: The plight of hundreds of children fathered by Americans based in Korea and Vietnam has received much press in recent years because of their status as outcasts in their countries. Congressman McKinney and Senator Denton, a long-time Vietnam prisoner of war, set out in 1981 to resolve the backlogs of cases of these children and S. 1698 would do that.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION: All the Members have participated in various White House functions.

DATE AND TIME: Open. Bill has not yet been received. ~~15 MINUTES.~~

LOCATION: ~~The Rose Garden.~~ *Oval office* *5 min*

PARTICIPANTS: See attached list.

OUTLINE OF EVENT: No specific agenda.

REMARKS REQUIRED: Talking points will be provided.

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House Press Corps and White House photographer.

RECOMMENDED BY: Kenneth M. Duberstein
M. B. Oglesby, Jr.

OPPOSED BY: None

PROJECT OFFICER: M. B. Oglesby, Jr.
Nancy Risque

APPROVED FOR
Date. 10/14/82
Time. 3:20
Length. 5 min *Oval office*
Date 10/7/82 WKS

Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo. — usually on the other side of issues from Kindness — declared, "What this says is that if enough people violate the law, Congress has to cave. All we are saying is 'We surrender. We give up on all this.' It is a legal precedent for saying this can happen again and again."

But Mazzoli and Rodino, joined by several Republicans, argued that legalization was a necessary part of the bill. Mazzoli repeated what he has said before — that those eligible for legalization are contributing members of society who have been in the United States for years, despite their undocumented status.

"I don't believe they are going to be a drudge or a drag on society," Mazzoli said.

Dan Lungren, R-Calif., a member of Mazzoli's subcommittee, told colleagues, "I find no other realistic option." He said his constituents, who say they oppose legalization, nonetheless want exceptions to be made for friends in their communities who are undocumented aliens.

"Practically speaking, you can't do anything else," Lungren concluded. Two motions by McCollum to delete the entire amnesty section were rejected 12-16 and 11-17.

As approved by the subcommittee, HR 6514 granted permanent resident status to persons who entered the United States before Jan. 1, 1978. Such persons would be entitled to most forms of public assistance. Temporary resident status would be available for those aliens who had been in the United States since Jan. 1, 1980. They could seek permanent resident status after two years. Only federal emergency medical care and aid for the blind, aged and disabled would be available.

The committee adopted an amendment by Lungren that was virtually identical to the Senate bill and more restrictive than the House subcommittee version. It would grant permanent residency to those aliens who were in the United States by Jan. 1, 1977, rather than 1978.

These aliens would be denied most forms of public assistance for three years.

The 1980 date for temporary resident status was retained, but temporary residents would have to wait three years before adjusting to permanent resident status — as in the Senate bill. They would be denied all forms of federal assistance, including

emergency aid, for a total of six years.

An amendment by Hamilton Fish Jr., R-N.Y., was adopted to provide emergency medical aid for permanent and temporary residents, and assistance for those who are blind, aged and disabled.

Following the defeat of his reimbursement proposal, Edwards offered a revised amendment that authorized 100 percent reimbursement to the states for amnesty costs if funds are available. The Appropriations Committee would decide whether the program would be funded. This proposal was adopted 16-12.

The Edwards amendment replaced a section in the Lungren amendment that would have created a block grant program, like that in the Senate bill, to compensate states for legalization costs.

Temporary Workers

On Sept. 21, the committee, by voice vote, adopted a package of amendments to the temporary worker

program. The changes had been vigorously sought by organized labor.

The principal modification essentially restored current law concerning the administration of the program.

In the subcommittee and Senate bills, the attorney general was given final authority over regulation of the program, after consulting with the Departments of Labor and Agriculture. Under current law and the House bill, Agriculture has no role in administering the program. It is run by the Labor Department.

The committee also adopted an amendment revising the length of time a temporary worker could stay in the country. The subcommittee bill permitted a stay of up to 11 months. The committee amendment allows the Labor Department to determine how long workers are needed for particular jobs. Another committee amendment required the Labor Department to determine that employment of temporary workers would not depress wage rates for similar jobs nationwide. ■

Immigration of Amerasian Children

The Senate Judiciary Committee Sept. 21 approved a bill (S 1698) designed to make it easier for young Southeast Asians fathered by American servicemen to immigrate to the United States.

The bill, sponsored by Jeremiah Denton, R-Ala., was approved by voice vote.

Under current immigration law, these "Amerasians" are unable to enter the country because citizenship benefits, such as eligibility to enter as the child of a U.S. citizen, accrue from the citizenship of one's mother.

Under S 1698, Amerasian children could apply for admission to the United States under the "first preference" for visa allocations — a category reserved for unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens.

The attorney general is authorized to approve petitions for the children if he has reason to believe the applicant was born after 1950 either in Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, or Kampuchea (Cambodia), and was fathered by a U.S. citizen.

The attorney general would consult with private organizations in the country of the applicant's birth to make such a determination. The bill states that the attorney general would consider such factors as the physical appearance of the petitioner, a birth certificate and proof of past financial support from a U.S. citizen thought to be the petitioner's father.

The attorney general also would have to obtain a guarantee of financial support from a sponsor who is a U.S. citizen or permanent resident and is at least 21 years old. The guarantee of support would have to be signed in the presence of a U.S. immigration official.

The sponsor must agree to be financially responsible for the applicant at 125 percent above the poverty threshold for five years or until the applicant reaches the age of 21, whichever is longer.

An immigration reform bill approved by the House Judiciary Committee Sept. 22 (HR 6514) includes provisions on Amerasians but it differs in some respects from the Senate bill. The House bill would apply only to Amerasians under 21 years of age, and there would be a 10-year limit on the program. The sponsorship requirements are virtually the same as in S 1698.

Ninety-seventh Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the twenty-fifth day of January,
one thousand nine hundred and eighty-two*

An Act

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide preferential treatment in the admission of certain children of United States citizens.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 204 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) is amended by inserting at the end thereof the following new subsection:

“(g)(1) Any alien claiming to be an alien described in paragraph (2)(A) of this subsection (or any person on behalf of such an alien) may file a petition with the Attorney General for classification under section 201(b), 203(a)(1), or 203(a)(4), as appropriate. After an investigation of the facts of each case the Attorney General shall, if the conditions described in paragraph (2) are met, approve the petition and forward one copy to the Secretary of State.

“(2) The Attorney General may approve a petition for an alien under paragraph (1) if—

“(A) he has reason to believe that the alien (i) was born in Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, or Thailand after 1950 and before the date of the enactment of this subsection, and (ii) was fathered by a United States citizen;

“(B) he has received an acceptable guarantee of legal custody and financial responsibility described in paragraph (4); and

“(C) in the case of an alien under eighteen years of age, (i) the alien’s placement with a sponsor in the United States has been arranged by an appropriate public, private, or State child welfare agency licensed in the United States and actively involved in the intercountry placement of children and (ii) the alien’s mother or guardian has in writing irrevocably released the alien for emigration.

“(3) In considering petitions filed under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall—

“(A) consult with appropriate governmental officials and officials of private voluntary organizations in the country of the alien’s birth in order to make the determinations described in subparagraphs (A) and (C)(i) of paragraph 2; and

“(B) consider the physical appearance of the alien and any evidence provided by the petitioner, including birth and baptismal certificates, local civil records, photographs of, and letters or proof of financial support from, a putative father who is a citizen of the United States, and the testimony of witnesses, to the extent it is relevant or probative.

“(4)(A) A guarantee of legal custody and financial responsibility for an alien described in paragraph (2) must—

“(i) be signed in the presence of an immigration officer or consular officer by an individual (hereinafter in this paragraph referred to as the ‘sponsor’) who is twenty-one years of age or older, is of good moral character, and is a citizen of the United States or alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, and

“(ii) provide that the sponsor agrees (I) in the case of an alien under eighteen years of age, to assume legal custody for the alien after the alien’s departure to the United States and until the alien becomes eighteen years of age, in accordance with the laws of the State where the alien and the sponsor will reside, and (II) to furnish, during the five-year period beginning on the date of the alien’s acquiring the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or during the period beginning on the date of the alien’s acquiring the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence and ending on the date on which the alien becomes twenty-one years of age, whichever period is longer, such financial support as is necessary to maintain the family in the United States of which the alien is a member at a level equal to at least 125 per centum of the current official poverty line (as established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, under section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 and as revised by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 652 of such Act) for a family of the same size as the size of the alien’s family.

“(B) A guarantee of legal custody and financial responsibility described in subparagraph (A) may be enforced with respect to an alien against his sponsor in a civil suit brought by the Attorney General in the United States district court for the district in which the sponsor resides, except that a sponsor or his estate shall not be liable under such a guarantee if the sponsor dies or is adjudicated a bankrupt under title 11, United States Code.”.

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.*