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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 29, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR SHIRLEY M. GREEN, ACTING PRESS SECRETARY,
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: LINAS KOJELIS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF
PUBLIC LIAISON

SUBJECT: Proposal for White House Meeting with
Vietnamese Refugees

Shirley, Faith has forwarded to me your memorandum of January 16 with your proposal for a White House event with Vietnamese refugees to recognize this new American ethnic group. Unfortunately, I do not foresee an appropriate Presidential event on which we could piggy-back a meeting with the Vietnamese refugee family to which you referred in your memo.

I would like to offer, however, to arrange a special White House briefing for the Vietnamese American community. We could invite 100 to 200 community leaders to a briefing in Room 450 or 474 EOB and then arrange for the Vice President to make a special drop-by at which he could recognize both the Vietnamese American community in general, and the young gentleman and his family in particular. We could plan for a date in late March or early April.

If this idea sounds good to you, please let me know, and my office will start putting it together right away.

MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

January 16, 1984

JAN 17 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FAITH WHITTLESEY

FROM: Shirley M. Green, Acting Press Secretary

RE: Suggestion for White House Meeting

Cal Thomas, Communications Director for Moral Majority, called me with a wonderful, heartwarming story and his suggestion that the White House might do something with a group of Vietnamese refugees.

Back in the early '70s, Cal's Baptist church in Houston, Texas, brought over a whole Christian orphanage of Vietnamese children (68, I believe it was) and arranged adoptions for all of these children. One of the boys is now a senior in high school and has just been appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy -- to their knowledge, the first of the Vietnamese refugees to be admitted to any of the service academies.

Cal thought it would be a wonderful event if this boy and his family could be invited to the White House, or perhaps a larger number of Vietnamese refugees could be invited in a more all-encompassing event. Knowing the importance of the Asian-American voters and their conservative value system, I thought this might be something you would want to consider. Cal can be reached at 804/528-5031. The boy's parents (who are Republicans) are Jim and Joan Sears, 200 Dent Tree Court, Irving, Texas 75061; phone 214/251-2077.

Cal also says that CBS News is planning to do a spot about this boy and his outstanding accomplishments in the very near future.

If you determine not to pursue this for the President or the White House, I would appreciate your letting me know because I feel sure the Vice President would like to acknowledge this young man's accomplishments in some way.

cc: Michael Baroody
Jennifer Fitzgerald

1/20 Linas -
please follow
up -
Thanks,
F.

MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

March 12, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR LINAS KOJELIS
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

FROM: Shirley Green
Acting Press Secretary to the Vice President

RE: Proposal for White House Meeting with Vietnamese Refugees

Thank you for your memorandum concerning the possibility of a White House meeting with Vietnamese refugees. The Vice President is sending a congratulatory letter to the young boy who has received the first appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.

If at sometime in the future the Office of Public Liaison arranges a White House briefing for the Vietnamese-American community, a request for the Vice President to attend should be directed to his Executive Assistant, Jennifer Fitzgerald.

cc: Jennifer Fitzgerald