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**Collection:** Rusthoven, Peter J.: Files  
**Folder Title:** PJR/Vietnamese Refugees – Proposed  
Commendations for Rescuers  
**Box:** OA 11425

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*Last Updated: 04/21/2023*

RHM Guf.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 30, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
DEPUTY TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING *Orig. signed by FFF*  
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Proposed Commendations for  
Rescuers of Vietnamese Refugees

Our office has reviewed the proposed commendations for the shipowner and crew members of the vessel Rose City, and -- subject to confirmation by NSC and, if necessary, the State Department that nothing about the Rose City's activities on the occasion in question raised any diplomatic or related problems -- has no legal or other objection to presentation of the commendations by the Vice President.

FFF:PJR:pr 10/30/84  
cc: FFFielding  
PJRusthoven ✓  
Subject  
Chron.

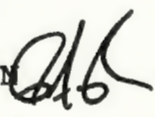
PR Suly.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 30, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: PETER J. RUSTHOVEN   
SUBJECT: Proposed Commendations for  
Rescuers of Vietnamese Refugees

Richard Darman's office asked for comments by noon today on proposed Presidential commendations for the shipowner and crew members of the vessel Rose City, which in September of 1983 rescued in the South China Sea some 92 refugees fleeing the workers' paradise of Vietnam. The Vice President is planning to present the commendations this Thursday in New York City.

I see no legal or other objection to presentation of this commendations, subject to confirmation by NSC and, if necessary, the State Department that nothing about the Rose City's activities on this occasion raised any diplomatic or related problems. (NSC is the only other office that was staffed on this matter.)

A memorandum for Darman is attached for your review and signature.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 30, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR RICHARD G. DARMAN  
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND  
DEPUTY TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING  
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

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# **WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence  
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1/1Name of Correspondent: Richard Darman☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) \_\_\_\_\_ (B) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Commendations of Rescuers of  
Vietnamese Refugees**ROUTE TO:****ACTION****DISPOSITION**

| Office/Agency (Staff Name) | Action Code             | Tracking Date YY/MM/DD | Type of Response | Code | Completion Date YY/MM/DD        |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|------|---------------------------------|
| <u>Curtis</u>              | ORIGINATOR              | <u>84 11 29</u>        |                  |      | <u>1/1</u>                      |
| <u>WRT 09</u>              | Referral Note: <u>D</u> | <u>84 11 29</u>        |                  |      | <u>584 11 30</u><br><u>NOON</u> |
|                            | Referral Note:          | <u>1/1</u>             |                  |      | <u>1/1</u>                      |
|                            | Referral Note:          | <u>1/1</u>             |                  |      | <u>1/1</u>                      |
|                            | Referral Note:          | <u>1/1</u>             |                  |      | <u>1/1</u>                      |
|                            | Referral Note:          | <u>1/1</u>             |                  |      | <u>1/1</u>                      |

**ACTION CODES:**

A - Appropriate Action  
 C - Comment/Recommendation  
 D - Draft Response  
 F - Furnish Fact Sheet  
 to be used as Enclosure

I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary  
 R - Direct Reply w/Copy  
 S - For Signature  
 X - Interim Reply

**DISPOSITION CODES:**

A - Answered  
 B - Non-Special Referral  
 C - Completed  
 S - Suspended

**FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:**

Type of Response = Initials of Signer  
 Code = "A"  
 Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 10/29/84

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

NOON TOMORROW, 10/30

SUBJECT: COMMENDATIONS OF RESCUERS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

|                | ACTION FYI                          |                                       |            | ACTION FYI               |                          |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>              | MURPHY     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| MEESE          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>              | OGLESBY    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BAKER          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>              | ROGERS     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DEAVER         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>              | SPEAKES    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| STOCKMAN       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>              | SVAHN      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P | VERSTANDIG | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FIELDING       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>              | WHITTLESEY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FULLER         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>              | _____      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HERRINGTON     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>              | _____      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HICKEY         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>              | _____      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| McFARLANE      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>              | _____      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| McMANUS        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>              | _____      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## REMARKS:

Any problem with the attached commendations? The Vice President plans on presenting these on Thursday.

Thank you.

## RESPONSE:

Richard G. Darman  
Assistant to the President  
Ext. 2702

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1984

MEMORANDUM TO: Richard G. Darman  
THROUGH: Admiral Daniel Murphy *Q26*  
FROM: J. Steven Rhodes  
SUBJECT: Presidential Commendation of Rescuers  
of Vietnamese Refugees.

Attached are proposed commendations that we would like to have the Vice President present, on behalf of the President, to the shipowner and crew members of the "Rose City" for their humanitarian rescue efforts of Vietnamese refugees.

We would like to arrange to have this presentation of the awards on Thursday, November 1st, while the Vice President is in New York City.

Your assistance in expediting these drafts for approval is most appreciated.

cc: Daniel Sullivan

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AWARDS THIS  
COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL HUMANITARIAN SERVICE  
TO  
LEO BERGER

Owner of the vessel ROSE CITY, which on September 23, 1983, in the South China Sea rescued ninety-two Vietnamese refugees fleeing the communist tyranny of their homeland.

Many ships flving the flags of different nations passed by before the ROSE CITY heeded their calls of distress and saved them from certain destruction in an approaching storm. All Americans can be proud that this U.S. flag vessel, owned, captained and manned by U.S. citizens, acted in our nation's finest tradition in coming to the aid of the less fortunate in a time of need.

This great humanitarian act ennobles not only the captain, crew and owner of the ROSE CITY, but all mankind.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AWARDS THIS  
COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL HUMANITARIAN SERVICE  
TO  
LEWIS HILLER

Captain of the vessel ROSE CITY, which on September 23, 1983, in the South China Sea rescued ninety-two Vietnamese refugees fleeing the communist tyranny of their homeland.

Many ships flying the flags of different nations passed by before the ROSE CITY heeded their calls of distress and saved them from certain destruction in an approaching storm. All Americans can be proud that this U.S. flag vessel, owned, captained and manned by U.S. citizens, acted in our nation's finest tradition in coming to the aid of the less fortunate in a time of need.

This great humanitarian act ennobles not only the captain, crew and owner of the ROSE CITY, but all mankind.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AWARDS THIS  
COMMENDATION FOR EXCEPTIONAL HUMANITARIAN SERVICE  
TO  
JEFFREY KASS

Crewman aboard the ROSE CITY, who at peril to his own life leapt into high seas to save two Vietnamese refugees, a father and son, from drowning.

On September 23, 1983, the Captain and Crew of the ROSE CITY came to the rescue of these and other Vietnamese aboard their sinking craft in the South China Sea, saving 92 men, women, children and infants from certain death in an approaching storm.

During the rescue, JEFFREY KASS, with extraordinary courage and little regard for his personal safety, swam out to save Chua Quah and his eight year old son, Hung, who had been swept away by the rising seas.

This act of heroism will long be remembered by all those who cherish freedom and feel compassion for the plight of this world's refugees.