

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF from our textual collections.

Collection: Cooksey, Sherrie M.: Files
Folder: SMC/Preferential Treatment
Amerasian Children S. 1698
Box: OA 11736

To see more digitized collections visit:
<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories
visit: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 13, 1982

FOR: FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: SHERRIE M. COOKSEY *gr*

SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill S. 1698 -- Preferential
Treatment in Admitting Amerasian
Children to the United States

Attached for your review and signature is a memorandum to Dick Darman stating that we have reviewed S. 1698, which provides for preferential treatment in the admission of Amerasian children to the United States, and have no legal objections to the President signing it.

S. 1698 provides that a child fathered by a United States citizen and born in Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, or Thailand, after 1950 and before the date of enactment of this bill, may enter the United States as a permanent resident. A visa petition must be filed with the Department of Justice either by the child or someone acting on the child's behalf. All applicants must have a sponsor who agrees to furnish financial support to the child for 5 years after admission or until the age of 21, whichever is longer. This guarantee of financial support is an enforceable contract between the sponsor and the Department of Justice. Additional safeguards for children under the age of 18 are also contained in the bill.

S. 1698 passed both Houses by voice vote. A signing ceremony is scheduled for this bill on Thursday, October 14.

Attachment

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 13, 1982

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

FROM: FRED F. FIELDING
COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill S. 1698 -- Preferential
Treatment in Admitting Amerasian
Children to the United States

We have reviewed S. 1698, which provides for preferential treatment in the admission of Amerasian children to the United States, and have no legal objections to the President signing it.

FFF:SMC:sd 10/13/82

cc: FFFielding
SMCooksey
Subject
Chron.

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1

Name of Correspondent:

Richard G. Harman

☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____

(B) _____

(C) _____

Subject:

Enrolled Bill S. 1698 -- Preferential
Treatment in Admitting American
Children to the United States

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
CV Holland		ORIGINATOR	82110115			1 1
WAT 17		Referral Note: D	82110112		S	82110113
		Referral Note:				1 1
		Referral Note:				1 1
		Referral Note:				1 1
		Referral Note:				1 1
		Referral Note:				1 1

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.

OCT 12 1982

Document No. 092173SS

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM2:00 Wednesday
October 13, 1982DATE: Oct. 12, 1982 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:SUBJECT: Enrolled Bill S. 1698--Preferential Treatment in Admitting
Amerasian Children to the United States

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	FULLER	☒	☐
MEESE	☐	☒	GERGEN	☐	☐
BAKER	☐	☒	HARPER	☒	☐
DEAVER	☐	☒	JENKINS	☐	☐
STOCKMAN	☐	☐	MURPHY	☐	☐
CLARK	☒	☐	ROLLINS	☐	☐
DARMAN	☐ P	☒ SS	WILLIAMSON	☐	☐
DOLE	☒	☐	VON DAMM	☐	☐
DUBERSTEIN	☒	☐	BRADY/SPEAKES	☐	☒
FELDSTEIN	☐	☐	ROGERS	☐	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐		☐	☐

Remarks:

Please forward comments on this enrolled bill to my office by 2:00 tomorrow. PLEASE NOTE A SIGNING CEREMONY IS SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14.

Thank you.

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x2702)

Response:



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

OCT. 12 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Enrolled Bill S. 1698 - Preferential Treatment in
Admitting Amerasian Children to the United States
Sponsor - Sen. Denton (R) Alabama and 41 others

Last Day for Action

Purpose

To provide preferential treatment in the admission of Amerasian children to the United States.

Agency Recommendations

Office of Management and Budget

Approval

Department of Defense

Approval

Department of Justice

Approval (Informally)

Department of State

Approval

National Security Council

Approval

Agency for International Development

No objection

Department of Health and Human Services

No objection (Informally)

Department of Labor

No objection (Informally)

Discussion

There are many children fathered by United States citizens living in Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, or Thailand. These Amerasian children are often ill-treated and considered outcasts or subjected to subtle forms of discrimination because of their American parentage. To give relief to these children, S. 1698 amends the Immigration and Naturalization Act to give them preferential treatment with respect to their admission to the United States.

The bill provides that a child fathered by a United States citizen and born in the Southeast Asian countries noted above, after 1950 and before the date of enactment of the bill, may enter the United States as a permanent resident. The process by which this permanent residence may be obtained is devised in the

bill so as to provide certain safeguards for both the child and the American public. The process is begun by filing a visa petition either by the child or by any person acting on the child's behalf. The visa petition is filed with the Department of Justice, which has responsibility for determining whether the applicant qualifies under the basic criteria set forth above.

In addition, all applicants must have a sponsor who agrees to furnish financial support to the applicant for five years after admission, or until the age of 21, whichever is longer. Financial support must be at a level equal to at least 125 per cent of the official poverty lines. This guarantee of financial support is made in effect an enforceable contract between the sponsor and the Department of Justice, which may bring civil suit against the sponsor for failure to meet obligations to the child.

In the case of an applicant under the age of 18, further requirements are specified to insure that the child is protected. In these cases, sponsorship of the child must be arranged by a child welfare agency licensed in the United States and actively involved in intercountry placement of children, and the child's mother or guardian must in writing irrevocably release the child for emigration to the United States.

In sum, the bill provides safeguards and limitations on eligibility that should prevent abuse of this preferential admission program.

* * * * *

The enrolled bill passed the House and Senate by voice vote.

James M. Frey
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 13, 1982

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: Enrolled Bill S. 1698 -- Preferential
Treatment in Admitting Amerasian
Children to the United States

We have reviewed S. 1698, which provides for preferential treatment in the admission of Amerasian children to the United States, and have no legal objections to the President signing it.

FFF:SMC:sd 10/13/82

cc: FFFielding
✓SMCooksey
Subject
Chron.