

# FORD ASKS NATION TO OPEN ITS DOORS TO THE REFUGEES

President, in TV Plea, Cites  
Hungarian and Cuban Aid  
in Answer to Queries

## U.S. TRADITION INVOKED

A Delegation Describes Him  
as 'Damned Mad' at Wi-  
Resettlement Opposition

By DAVID BINDER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 6—President Ford, described today as "damned mad" about widespread opposition to resettlement of 130,000 Vietnamese and Cambodians in this country, appealed tonight to the nation to "welcome these people."

"I am primarily very upset because the United States has had a long tradition of opening

*Transcript of news conference  
is printed on Page 20.*

its doors to immigrants of all countries," he said at his evening news conference.

"We're a country built by immigrants from all areas of the world, and we've always been a very humanitarian nation, and when I read or heard the comments made a few days ago I was disappointed and very upset," he said.

His remark about the opposition to refugee resettlement was reported by Republican congressional leaders and administration officials who attended a White House meeting on the refugee issue with the President this morning.

"It just burns me up, these great humanitarians," the President was quoted further by

Senator Hugh Scott, the Senate minority leader from Pennsylvania. "They just want to turn their backs. We didn't do it to the Hungarians, we didn't do it to the Cubans and, damn it, we're not going to do it now."

Mr. Ford was referring to the resettlement of 40,000 Hungarian and 675,000 Cuban refugees in this country since 1956, after the Hungarian revolt and the take-over of Cuba by Fidel Castro.

But as the President spoke, antagonism to the Vietnamese refugee relief program spread in the House and the Senate and mail to the White House and Congress was predominantly against assistance for the Vietnamese.

### Telegrams and Letters

White House spokesman reported that 2,809 messages contained in telegrams and letters opposed aid, while 2,451 were for it.

Speaking to reporters this morning, Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, the assistant majority leader, predicted that President Ford's request yesterday for \$507-million for refugee transport and resettlement would be cut.

"There is no political support for it in this country," he said.

Senator Byrd said he thought the Administration ought to see to it that "undesirables" be screened out of the resettlement process, naming "barmaids, prostitutes and criminals" as excludable categories.

In a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing with Secretary of State Kissinger, Senator Joseph Biden, Democrat of Delaware, charged that the Administration had not informed Congress adequately about the number of refugees to be brought here.

At a news conference, L. Dean Brown, director of the Interagency Task Force on Refugees, disclosed that Florida Congressmen, led by Repre-

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# Ford Asks Nation to Open Its Doors to Refugees

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Representative Robert L. R. Sikes, a Democrat, had compelled the Administration to trim the size of its refugees reception center at Eglin Air Force Base from a capacity of 20,000 to one of 2,500.

"They let us know they didn't want very many," said Mr. Brown.

Democratic members of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, including the chairman, Representative Joshua Eilberg of Philadelphia, told Mr. Brown yesterday that Congress would not give the full amount of aid sought by President Ford.

The Administration is also contending with coldness in the international community toward its appeal for assistance in resettling the refugees.

Mr. Brown said repeatedly at the news conference that he was "disappointed" with the response of countries counted as friends of the United States.

He cited Australia as an example saying, "They are taking less than a hundred."

Mr. Brown also spoke sardonically of the United Na-

tions High Commission on Refugees, to which the United States made an appeal for Vietnam refugee assistance two weeks ago.

"They put out a communiqué today finally and got some people on Guam," he said. "They sent two people to Guam."

However, there were also some positive signs for the Administration on the refugee problem.

## Javits-Pell Bill

Senators Jacob K. Javits, the New York Republican, and Claiborne Pell, the Rhode Island Democrat, submitted a bill in the Senate to authorize "such sums as may be necessary" to pay for transport, resettlement, education and vocational training of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees.

Senator Javits told a reporter that he expected the bill to be ready for a vote in the Senate early next week.

"Of course I am worried about the House," he added.

Foreign Relations Committee staff aides said Senators Biden and Dick Clark, Democrat of Iowa, were expected to reject

the Administration refugee assistance request.

Organized labor was also urged to support the Administration's refugee assistance program in a statement issued by the executive council of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations and backed by its president, George Meany.

The statement accused legislators opposed to the refugees of "meanness of spirit," adding, "It is a meanness in which the American labor movement will not participate."

"Yes, we have 9 per cent unemployment," Mr. Meany said at a news conference, but adding, "If this great country can't absorb another 30,000 to 40,000 and find them jobs, we're denying our own heritage. The group is a drop in the bucket."

Asked whether the American businessmen, contract employees and newsmen evacuated by United States military forces from Vietnam would be billed, Mr. Brown said the Defense Department intended to obtain reimbursement. Not all of the passengers in these categories could be identified, he added.

PRESS CONFERENCE  
TRANSCRIPT, FILED FORD AD