



Office of the Attorney General.
Washington, D. C. 20530

July 27, 1977

The Honorable James O. Eastland
United States Senator
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Eastland:

As we discussed yesterday morning, the Secretary of State has asked me to consider the exercise of my statutory parole authority to admit 15,000 Indochinese refugees.

As you know, Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration Act states that the Attorney General

"may in his discretion parole into the United States . . . for emergent reasons or for reasons deemed strictly in the public interest any alien applying for admission to the United States."

The law expressly requires that the exercise of discretion be based on facts showing the emergent or public interest reasons for parole. I have given the facts underlying Secretary Vance's request very careful consideration, and it is presently my judgment that parole for the 15,000 Indochinese refugees under the circumstances is warranted.

I am well aware of the Congressional interest in these matters, and I think it important that Congress have an opportunity to study fully proposals for the exercise of parole such as this and the facts upon which such action is based.

I therefore enclose for your consideration: a copy of Secretary Vance's July 16 letter requesting that I consider parole; a copy of my letter to him of July 19 requesting additional information; a copy of Secretary Vance's July 22 letter in response providing additional factual information;

and a copy of the recommendation on this matter of Leonel Castillo, Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Based on my study to date, it is my present intention to authorize the parole of these 15,000 Indochinese refugees on August 11, 1977. We would appreciate receiving such views and comments of yours, if any, before that date. I will be glad to assist in any way that I can in furnishing to you any additional information concerning this matter.

Warm regards.

Sincerely,

Griffin B. Bell

Griffin Bell
Attorney General

bcc: Cyrus R. Vance, Secretary of State
Leonel Castillo, Commissioner, INS
Michel Oksenberg, National Security Council