

MEMORANDUM


5672

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 27, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF

FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT 

SUBJECT: Response to letter from Congressman Taylor

Congressman Taylor wrote the President seeking approval of one-year visit visas for three hundred Honduran orphans.

The response explains why it is not possible to issue non-immigrant visas to such orphans and notes that unfortunately it would take more than two years of waiting for them to receive immigrant visas. It mentions the possibility of private legislation to accomplish the purpose.

Attachments:

- Tab A: Suggested response to Congressman Taylor
- Tab B: Incoming correspondence

Suggested Reply

Dear Mr. Taylor:

The President has asked that I reply to your letter of November 15 forwarding the petition of Dr. J. Stephen Ralston on behalf of the citizens of Jasper County, Missouri, for approval of one-year visitor visas for three hundred Honduran orphans.

We have reviewed this proposal with the State Department to determine whether it can be accomplished within the framework of our immigration laws. Although it is intended that the children will live in foster homes here for only a year, their actual return to Honduras cannot be taken for granted. There is the strong possibility that the foster parents would be reluctant to relinquish the children, after having them in their homes for a year, to return them to Honduras to be placed in orphanages. Moreover, it is not at all certain that the Hondurans would be willing to accept the children back and to assimilate them into their limited social welfare programs.

We feel that, from a legal as well as a realistic point of view, the children are in effect intending immigrants and should be issued immigrant visas. Our immigration law does not permit intending immigrants to be issued visitor visas. Unfortunately, the children would have to wait for more than two years before they could be issued immigrant visas because of the long waiting list for Western Hemisphere visa numbers.

It is unfortunate that legal restrictions of the Immigration and Naturalization Act will not permit your Jasper County constituents to accomplish their commendable purpose. It is of course always possible to approach a situation like this through special legislation. I am sure you are aware of the procedures involved.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Gene Taylor
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

December 23, 1974

MEMO FOR: COL. R. KENNEDY

FROM:  STEPHEN LOW

Attached is a Congressional response
for your sign-off.

JOINT NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL/STATE SECRETARIAT REFERRAL/RESPONSE FORM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM FOR: George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary
Department of State

Date: 11/20/74

NSC Log No. 7405672

The attached document(s) are forwarded for staffing as indicated below:

XXX DRAFT REPLY FOR: _____ PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE _____ TRANSLATION
_____ WHITE HOUSE STAFF SIGNATURE _____ RECOMMENDATIONS
_____ OTHER _____ INFO ONLY

_____ DIRECT REPLY _____ furnish info copy

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: _____

URGENT _____
PRIORITY _____
ROUTINE xx

Mandy A. Kerchner
for JEANNE W. DAVIS
Staff Secretary

DUE DATE: 11/25/74

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lt. Gen. Brent Scowcroft
National Security Council
The White House

Date: November 26, 1974

S/S Log No. 7422953

Pursuant to the above referral we are transmitting with this memorandum:

The attached item was received by the Department of State:

X Draft reply for:
_____ President's signature
_____ Other signature

_____ We believe no response is necessary

_____ Information copy of direct reply

_____ A draft response is attached

_____ Translation

_____ A draft response will be forwarded

REMARKS _____

for *Paul Barbain*
GEORGE S. SPRINGSTEEN
Executive Secretary

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION

To: President Gerald R. Ford From: Rep. Gene Taylor Date: 11/15/74

Subject: Rep. Taylors constituents of Jasper County Requesting visas for 300 Honduran orphans for 1 year who were affected by hurricane.

SUGGESTED REPLY

Dear Mr. Taylor:

The President has asked that I reply to your letter of November 15 forwarding the petition of Dr. J. Stephen Ralston on behalf of the citizens of Jasper County, Missouri, for approval of one-year visitor visas for 300 Honduran orphans.

We have reviewed this proposal with the State Department to determine whether it can be accomplished within the framework of our immigration laws. Although it is intended that the children will live in foster homes here for only a year, the ~~prospects~~ of their actual return to Honduras cannot be taken for granted. There is the strong possibility that the foster parents would be reluctant to relinquish the children, after having them in their homes for a year, to return them to Honduras to be placed in orphanages. Moreover, it is not at all certain that the Honduran Government would be willing to accept the children back and to assimilate them into ^{their} ~~its~~ limited social welfare programs.

The Honorable
Gene Taylor,
House of Representatives.

Department of State

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We feel that, from a legal, as well as a realistic point of view, the children are in effect intending immigrants and should be issued immigrant visas. Our immigration law does not permit intending immigrants to be issued visitor visas. Unfortunately, the children ^{would have to wait} ~~could not be~~ ^{before they could be issued} ~~issued immigrant visas~~ ^{immigrant visas} for more than two years, because of the long waiting list for Western Hemisphere visa numbers.

^{the legal restrictions will not permit}
It is unfortunate that ~~it will not be possible for~~ your Jasper County constituents to accomplish their most commendable purpose.

Sincerely,

November 18, 1974

Dear Gene:

I wish to acknowledge receipt and thank you for forwarding to the President, under date of November 15, the petition directed to him by citizens of Jasper County for approval of visas requested to bring approximately 300 Honduran orphans to their homes for a stay of one year.

You may be assured this letter will be called to the President's attention promptly upon his return from the Far East. In the meantime, it will be shared with the appropriate members of the staff.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Deputy Assistant
to the President

The Honorable Gene Taylor
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

~~cc:~~ w/incoming to General Scowcroft for DRAFT REPLY/or
DIRECT TO Messrs . Ralston & Patterson with copy to the
Congressman and this office please.
bcc: w/incoming to Vincent Rakestraw, Department of Justice,
for your information.

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GENE TAYLOR
7TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

COMMITTEES:
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WATER RESOURCES
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INVESTIGATIONS
MANPOWER AND CIVIL SERVICE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:
314A WILHOIT BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65806
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302 FEDERAL BUILDING
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(417) 781-1041

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KIMBERLING CITY, MISSOURI 65685
(417) 739-2237

WASHINGTON OFFICE
1221 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6536

November 15, 1974

encl
BT

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

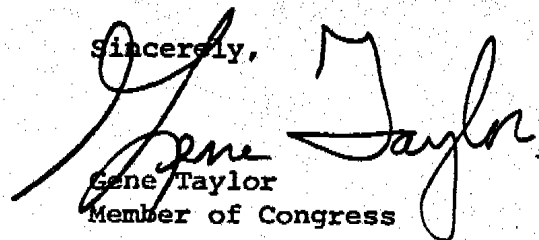
Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a letter from a group of citizens in my District who have requested that I assist them in bringing to your attention their desire to assist approximately 300 orphan children who have been affected by the recent hurricane that struck Honduras.

Realizing that the Department of State has discouraged such actions the people of Southwest Missouri are requesting your intercession in their behalf.

Any consideration you could give this request would be gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely,


Gene Taylor
Member of Congress

GT:hmh
Enclosure

October 28, 1974

President Gerald R. Ford
White House
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. President:

Please accept this petition from the citizens of Jasper County, Missouri.

A group of citizens in Jasper County became concerned about the Honduras children orphaned by hurricane Fifi. We felt that we should do more than just sympathize with the Honduran people. We have organized a Jasper County Committee for the Relief of Honduran Orphans.

At present we have located two-hundred and Twenty-Five (225) families in and around Jasper County that are willing to provide temporary foster homes for approximately three-hundred (300) children.

We will be applying to the American Consulate in Honduras for one year visitors' visas for these children. We want you and/or Mr. Kissinger to help us be assured that these visas will be issued. We are asking the Honduran Government to submit a letter with each visa application stating that they will accept these children back into Honduras at the end of the specified time period.

The United States Government is not being asked to do anything except give us permission to bring these children into our homes and care for them while the Honduran people attempt to recover from the horrible devastation of Hurricane Fifi.

Mr. Gene Taylor and members of his staff have been extremely helpful with this project. If he could announce immediately that he had personally interceded with the President or Mr. Kissinger in behalf of the citizens of Jasper County, and the Honduran Children, I am certain each and everyone of these families and their friends would be grateful to you and Mr. Taylor.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. Stephen Ralston, D.C.

J. Stephen Ralston, D.C.

Stan R. Patterson
Stan R. Patterson

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR: WILLIAM E. TIMMONS
FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT
SUBJECT: Response to letter from
Congressman Taylor

Congressman Taylor wrote the President seeking approval of one-year visit visas for three hundred Honduran orphans.

The response explains why it is not possible to issue non-immigrant visas to such orphans and notes that unfortunately it would take more than two years of waiting for them to receive immigrant visas. It mentions the possibility of private legislation to accomplish the purpose.

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