

Talking Points to Justify Appropriation Request of \$65 Million  
for Cuban and Haitian Entrant Assistance

1. In late June the President requested an FY-1980 supplemental appropriation of \$385 million to help finance assistance to Cubans and Haitians who were arriving in the United States. When the Congress considered this package, all but \$39 million of the request was approved as part of the omnibus FY-1980 supplemental. The \$39 million not approved was earmarked for the costs of the initial resettlement of these Cubans and Haitians and was inadvertently dropped from the bill when there was confusion over whether the \$39 million was duplicative of a separate appropriation of \$100 million for assistance to states and local governments. Clearly, while the funds were not duplicative, this confusion could not be resolved in time for the Congress to include the \$39 million in the supplemental.

2. In order to meet the expenses of this essential resettlement program, the President proposed on July 22 a budget amendment to the pending FY-1981 appropriation totalling \$65 million.

Included in this amount is \$35 million to meet the estimated cost of these resettlement services. The President has also recognized that the federal processing centers established to house, care for and process these people for resettlement will be open through the autumn. The President has therefore requested \$30 million to keep these facilities functioning.

3. The \$35 million requested for the resettlement of these entrants will largely be granted to the private voluntary agencies

which provide resettlement services. Normally, these services are provided pursuant to grant agreement with the Department of State. In this case, however, the Department of State does not have the funds to finance such grants or contracts. Therefore, the voluntary agencies are resettling these people without federal financing. This situation is sure to result in less than optimal resettlement.

4. With the \$35 million funds the Department of State intends to reimburse the voluntary agencies for their costs of resettlement even if those costs are incurred in this fiscal year. This goal of the Department, when combined with the small amount of financing that can be provided to the volags in FY-1980, should make it possible to continue the resettlement, although neither the rate of resettlement nor the quality of the process will be what we all would like.

5. The other \$30 million included in this request will go to meet the costs of operating the federal processing facilities for these entrants. It is expected that on October 1, 1980 there will be approximately 15,000 left in these facilities and that the facilities will be empty by the end of December 1980. In those intervening three months, it will be necessary to feed these people, provide for their medical needs, operate the facilities and, possibly, winterize some of the structures and consolidate the populations of the facilities into a smaller number of sites. The estimated cost of all of these services in this period is \$30 million.