

Further Home Office  
advise concerning M.A.P. 11/x.



Prime Minister

Agree the

Home Secretary's  
proposal?

HOME OFFICE

QUEEN ANNE'S GATE LONDON SW1H 9AT

14 September 1979

Dear Mike

He is a  
vice-chairman of the  
1879 Party's rising a lot  
of work  
with  
land  
for. I hope that  
this  
could  
be done  
by

The Home Secretary has been giving urgent consideration to ways of strengthening the ability of the voluntary refugee organisations to co-ordinate the reception and resettlement of the Vietnamese refugees whom we have agreed to accept into this country.

As a first step, the Home Secretary has agreed that Home Office officials should be loaned to the British Council for Aid to Refugees to form the basis of a co-ordinating Secretariat. He has also proposed to the voluntary organisations that a small Executive Committee should be set up which would bring the voluntary agencies together and could take the necessary operational decisions quickly and efficiently.

In the Home Secretary's view, these arrangements would be greatly strengthened if the Chairman of the Executive Committee were appointed from outside the voluntary refugee organisations. He sees considerable advantage in having a Chairman who has achieved a reputation in a wider field of public administration and who has sufficient force of character to ensure that the reception and resettlement exercise goes smoothly.

The Home Secretary has it in mind to offer this appointment to Sir Frank Marshall. By way of background I attach a copy of the Public Appointments Unit's record of Sir Frank's previous experience. There would be a number of advantages in this particular appointment. Sir Frank served on the Uganda Resettlement Board for 1971-74 and therefore already has some idea of the problems likely to be faced in the reception and subsequent resettlement of a large number of refugees. That apart, Sir Frank's local authority background ought to be of considerable help in any negotiations with local authorities and others on the provision and opportunities for permanent resettlement.

The Home Secretary thought that the Prime Minister ought to be made aware of this proposed appointment. He is anxious to make quick progress on this, and I should be grateful if you could let me know as soon as possible if the Prime Minister has any objection to what is proposed.

Sir Ian Bancroft has been consulted and is content.

Yours,  
JAC

J. A. CHILCOT