

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

September 9, 1958

Dear Mr. Fogarty:

The Department of State is most pleased to learn of the passage August 22, 1958 of S. 2942, as amended, which provides for the admittance of approximately 1500 Portuguese from the Azores and 3100 Dutch from Indonesia, with dependents. Your great interest in the welfare of these people, it is recognized, played a major part in the successful outcome of this legislation.

This Department is anxious to insure that the resulting visas are issued as expeditiously as possible. As I am sure you realize a new program such as this definitely will present a substantial addition to the already heavy workload of the consulates concerned. We have instructed our consuls in Ponta Delgada and Rotterdam to provide advice as to the rate of issuance of these extra visas which realistically can be expected, and particularly as to estimates of additional personnel and monetary support which are likely to be required.

Further, we are concerned by the probable difficulties which will be met in this instance in obtaining adequate sponsorship for these people in the United States. This concern is founded in a knowledge of the limited financial resources possessed by this group of unfortunate people, and the likelihood with regard especially to the Portuguese that their relatives and friends in the United States in many cases would be unable to shoulder the extra financial burden involved in seeing the immigrants through their initial resettlement period.

Consequently we have begun consultations with the voluntary agencies which will be involved in the sponsorship and placement of the refugees affected. In this connection we would appreciate any suggestions you might have regarding the satisfactory resettlement of these people in our country, particularly in view of your own knowledge of the background of both this legislation and the individuals involved. Moreover, I am certain that you and other community leaders can be very helpful in encouraging sponsors to come forward to assist these potential immigrants.

We assure you everything possible will be done to achieve successful implementation of this program.

Sincerely yours,

Harris H. Huston
Acting Administrator
Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs

The Honorable
John E. Fogarty
House of Representatives