

Cambodian Adoptions
Talking Points For Congressional Briefing
February 13, 2002

- Commissioner James Ziglar of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and Ambassador Mary A. Ryan, Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Consular Affairs, Department of State, are keenly aware of the humanitarian issues surrounding the suspension of adoptions in Cambodia. They will dispatch a joint senior-level Task Force to Cambodia for the purpose of exploring the possibility of establishing a special humanitarian initiative to provide relief to certain families who have been affected by the December 21 suspension on Cambodian adoptions.
- The Task Force's work will be based on extensive research into the caseload pending with the US Embassy in Cambodia on December 21, analysis of the official processes involved, and the status of petitioners in light of these official government processes.
- The Task Force will meet with Cambodian government authorities to determine to what extent, through mutual cooperation, cases could be considered on a case-by-case basis for adjudication consistent with US law.
- INS and the State Department plan to report back to Congressional members and prospective adoptive parents concerning the results of the Task Force trip by the end of the month.
- The suspension on adoptions in Cambodia remains in effect. Cambodian authorities have acknowledged the reason for the US government's suspension and have been formally asked to honor it. The Foreign Minister of Cambodia declared to the US Ambassador in Cambodia that the Cambodian Government had also suspended action on adoptions involving American families.
- There is no action that prospective adoptive parents can take at this time to further their standing in this matter.
- The INS asks prospective adoptive parents to funnel their communications and inquiries through their Congressional representatives who will be briefed at the soonest opportunity.
- INS appreciates the patience and cooperation of prospective adoptive parents as the Task Force tries to address all compelling interests in these matters.

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