TO: DIRECTORS, LOCAL DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DEPUTY/ASSISTANT DIRECTORS FOR FAMILY INVESTMENT
FAMILY INVESTMENT SUPERVISORS/ELIGIBILITY STAFF
FROM: KEVIN MAHON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FIA
RE: ELIGIBILITY PERIODS FOR ASYLEES

PROGRAMS AFFECTED: TEMPORARY CASH ASSISTANCE, FOOD
STAMPS, TRANSITIONAL EMERGENCY,
MEDICAL AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE

ORIGINATING OFFICE: OFFICE OF POLICY AND RESEARCH

This Information Memo informs staff how to determine the arrival dates of asylees when
calculating their eligibility period. An asylee’s period of eligibility is computed from the date that
individual entered the United States. The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of
Refugee Resettlement (ORR), considers the date of entry to be the date that asylum status was
granted. The immigration document (I-94) states the date the asylum was granted.

The attached memo from the Administration for Children and Families provides specific
information about Kurdish evacuees who may apply for asylum. When determining eligibility for
these asylees, please refer to this information memo and the attachment to assure that you
dermine the correct date of entry. Direct inquiries to Yolanda M. Parker at (410) 767-7259.

cc: FIA Management Staff
    Constituent Services
    DHR Executive Staff
    Frank Bien
    Help Desk
    CTF
OCT 22 1996

To:  State Welfare Administrators
     State Refugee Coordinators
     Voluntary Agencies
     Other Interested Parties

The United States recently airlifted to Guam Kurdish evacuees who are of special humanitarian concern to the United States, such as former employees of the U.S. government and their families. They were paroled into the custody of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and were given the opportunity to apply for asylum and resettlement in the U.S.

Once approved for asylum, the immigration document (I-94) will state the date that asylum was granted and have the following statement, or a variation thereof:

"Asylum Granted Indefinitely pursuant to Section 208 of the INA," (or it may reference Sec. 206(a)).

If otherwise eligible, persons granted asylum are eligible for refugee program benefits and assistance. Like refugees, asylees are authorized to work and to receive social security numbers. Unlike refugees who receive their status prior to being admitted to the U.S., asylees usually are granted asylum while they are physically present in the U.S. Therefore, while the eligibility period for refugees is calculated based on their date of arrival in the U.S., the eligibility period for assistance for asylees is computed from the date that the individual entered the U.S. For these Kurdish evacuees, the date of entry is considered by ORR to be the date that asylum status was granted.

Additionally, under the Welfare Reform legislation, Pub. L. No. 104-193, enacted August 22, 1996, asylees are eligible for the same benefits as are refugees.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions regarding benefits for these asylees, please contact Ms. Barbara Chesnik at the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Her telephone number is (202) 401-4558.

Lavinia Limon
Director
Office of Refugee Resettlement