

## International Standard for Archival Description

|                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>1.1 Reference code</b>    | UNHCR 50                       |
| <b>1.2 Title</b>             | Records of the Office in Japan |
| <b>1.3 Dates of creation</b> | 1975 - 1997                    |
| <b>1.4 Level</b>             | Fonds                          |
| <b>1.5 Extent (quantity)</b> | 9.12 m                         |

**2.4 Immediate source of acquisition** Transferred to the UNHCR Archives on 1 December 2000

### **3.1 Scope and content**

The records document the work of the office in Japan, particularly the complex procedures involving the Vietnamese boat people. All stages of the Indochinese refugee problem are reflected in the records, from the drama of the rescues at sea, through the resettlement programs in third countries, the voluntary repatriation effort, and the events following the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) was a regional agreement, adopted by Southeast Asian governments in June 1989, to review the status of the Indo-Chinese asylum seekers in their countries and to determine an appropriate “durable solution” for them. Following the screening, most persons were returned to their country of origin. The CPA officially ended at the end of 1997.

The files consist primarily of individual case files. While most of the records are of Indo-Chinese refugees, some series include case files from non-Southeast Asian refugees or refugee groups, enabling the researcher to compare and contrast the procedures in both types of cases.

### **3.3 Accruals**

Accruals are expected

### **3.4 Arrangement**

The records arrived in cartons marked “IC files (old) Indo-Chinese 1-12,” “IC files (old) Indo-Chinese Misc,” “CPA 1-3,” “Old files,” and “IC info (old) CPA.” The three cartons that were marked “IC info (old) CPA” were the consolidated boat and case files now found as series 3. The other cartons proved to have considerably varied contents. The series by which they are now identified (below) were determined by the filing codes on the files. Many of the series are clearly fragments of larger series, the remainders of which were not transferred to the Archives.

The records are arranged in ten series:

1. Boat files
2. Individual case files by boat
3. Consolidated boat and case files
4. Government of Japan numbered voluntary repatriation cases.
5. Third country resettlement cases
6. Pre-CPA voluntary repatriation cases
7. Non-Southeast Asia refugee groups
8. General Individual Cases
9. “Durable solution” cases under the Consolidated Plan of Action
10. Administrative files

**4.1 Conditions governing access** Records are subject to the General Restriction Policy of the UNHCR Archives.

- 4.2 Conditions governing reproduction** Records are subject to the Copyright Policy of UNHCR.
- 4.3 Language/scripts** English, Vietnamese, Japanese
- 4.5 Finding aids** Series level ISADs and file unit lists available
- 5.3 Related units of description** UNHCR 11, Records of the Central Registry, Series 2 and 3; UNHCR 19, Records of the Regional Bureaux, Sub-fonds 3, Records of the Asia and Pacific Bureau; Fonds 24, Records of the Hong Kong Office; Fonds UNHCR 30, Records of the Offices in Vietnam.
- 7.2 Rules or conventions** Internal UNHCR rules
- 7.3 Date of description** 27 August 2001