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Mr. D.C. Lavergne, Asst. Dir. for Resett. & Rehab. May 13, 1955

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Situation Report - Escapees, Evacuation, Resettlement,
20 March through 24 April 1955

Escapees

The following numbers of escapees were reported to have entered Haiphong during the five week period 20 March - 24 April 1955.

<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>Escapees</u>
27 March	2,193
3 April	3,601
10 April	1,875
17 April	1,760
24 April	2,804
Total	12,253

The most significant development in escapee operations during this reporting period was the successful escape of 1,500 refugees from the Southern Provinces of Tonkin (Bui Chu, Nam Dinh, Thanh Hoa and Vinh). The refugees escaped by sea in 16 sampans many of which were provided French Naval escort at sea. This escape was described as the first results of planning begun over four months ago by Vietnamese officials to assist an estimated 15,000 persons to escape by sea from the Southern Beaches of Tonkin to Haiphong. Officials in Haiphong doubt that another significant escape over this route can be achieved before the handover of the enclave on 18 May.

Continued escapee operations after 18 May are being considered by the Catholic and Vietnamese Government Officials who have planned and executed the escape program in Haiphong. It has been reported that plans to establish a Vietnamese escapee headquarters in Hue are being seriously considered. Refugees are known to be crossing the 17th parallel overland but no organization exists to receive, assist, retard, and report the number of arrivals. The handover of the Haiphong enclave brings the need for such organization forward for immediate consideration by the Vietnamese Government.

A second significant development was the arrival of 361 refugees in Haiphong on 25 April with exit permits issued by the Vietminh. These refugees were transported by vehicle to the demarkation line under Vietminh escort. This evacuation was reported to have been under I.G.C. supervision.

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and possibly under I.C.G. sponsorship.

Prior to this evacuation only an estimated 9,500 refugees entered Haiphong with genuine I.C.G. permits. The remainder of the 105,000 refugees who entered the enclave since 18 October were bonafide escapees. Most of the refugees previously evacuated by the Vietnamese reported not only considerable difficulties obtaining permits and transportation, but continued intimidation and obstructionism enroute to the demarkation line. This group of 361 apparently were escorted to the line without the difficulties experienced by those who were evacuated to Haiphong by the Vietnamese in the past.

The arrival of these evacuees gave rise to rumors in Haiphong that the Vietnamese intended to liberalize the issue of exit permits to flood Haiphong with refugees in an effort to discredit the Vietnamese - American effort to evacuate refugees Southward. The rumors remain completely unsubstantiated.

The recent requests to obtain an extension of 300 days for the evacuation of additional refugees from Tonkin through Cua Lo near Vinh, Van Ly near Phat Dien and Sam Son in Thanh Hoa Province would permit additional I.C.G. supervised evacuation. This possibility, plus the determination of the Vietnamese to continue escapee operations may result in an additional influx of refugees above the 660,000 estimates used for budgetary purposes for FY 1956.

Evacuation - Refugees

A total of 67,903 persons of all classes, military and civilian, were evacuated from Haiphong during the five week period: -

<u>Class</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Non-French Civilians	57,921	84
French Civilians	1,114	2
Vietnamese Military	2,824	4
French Military	6,044	10
Total (29 March - 25 April)	67,903	100

As of 25 April the total number of persons evacuated from the North since the beginning of operation enroute on 19 August 1955 was 771,022 including both military and civilian personnel: -

<u>Class</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Non-French Civilians	592,836	77
French Civilians	37,202	5
Vietnamese Military	57,970	7
French Military	83,014	11
Grand Total (19 August 54 - 25 April 55)	771,022	100

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Estimates of the additional members of refugees to be evacuated from Haiphong continue to vary considerably. Actual evacuation during this reporting period by air, USN Vessels and French Vessels was as follows: -

<u>Week Ending</u>	<u>Non-French Civilians</u>
28 March	7,827
3 April	4,583
11 April	12,681
17 April	19,110
25 April	14,809

Reports from Haiphong indicate few refugees remaining in refugee camps for evacuation. It is anticipated that the number of evacuees will decline steadily during the remaining weeks. The total non-French Civilian evacuation figure is not expected to exceed 520,000 on 18 May.

Resettlement:

The Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees reported an increase of 73,465 refugees actually located on resettlement sites during the five week period 22 March - 26 April bringing the total number in process of resettlement to 400,020. During the same period 7,743 additional housing units were completed which brought the total units completed under the resettlement program through 26 April to 38,291 family units. The Commissioner reports 11,173 tents or other temporary shelter still in use.

On a regional basis the status of resettlement on 26 April was as follows: -

	<u>Refugees on Resettlement Sites</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Housing Units Completed</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Temporary Shelter in use</u>
South VN	370,585	77	32,010	84	10,624
Central VN	109,435	23	6,281	16	549
Totals	480,020	100	38,291	100	11,173

The statistics provided by the Commissioner General continue to reflect only the overall effort to move the refugees from the transient camps to the resettlement sites. No data has been provided to show the relatively degree of resettlement for each of the sites. The Field Representatives in Central Vietnam consider many of the resettlement villages completed within the scope of the emergency resettlement program.

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