

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380

CAMP PENDLETON, CA.

REFUGEE CLIPS

27 MAY 1975

10A

Ogden Standard-Examiner, Friday, May 16, 1975

Vietnam Officers Didn't Leave

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (AP) — Two government agencies are telling different stories about whether some high-ranking Vietnamese officials have been allowed to leave Camp Pendleton without meeting the proper conditions.

The conflict came to light Thursday when it was learned that two former South Vietnam-

ese police generals who reportedly had been allowed to leave the refugee camp under special treatment were still there.

Immigration authorities declined to say whether a dozen other Vietnamese officials reported to be among those released last week were also still in the camp.

Found resting in their tent

were Brig. Gen. Truong Bay, 44, former chief of staff of the National Police, and Brig. Gen. Huynh Thoi Tay, 42, former head of the "special branch" of the National Police. They laughed when they told a newsman that immigration officials had just come to their tent to find out if they were still in the camp.

Camp Aides Claim

"We told them, here we are, we didn't go anywhere," said Bay.

A spokesman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service confirmed that certain high-ranking officials were placed in a special category of "identified, well-known, high risk people," who were to be

released under a special arrangement.

There were reports Wednesday that Bay and Tay were among former South Vietnamese police officials released early because they were responsible for suppressing dissent in Vietnam and it was feared they might face retaliation from other refugees.

Refugees Conduct Double Wedding

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (UPI) — The first wedding of Vietnamese refugees in "Little Saigon" was a double union, with a sister and brother taking a husband and wife in a Catholic ceremony Thursday.

The Rev. Peter Cho, a refugee priest, performed the ceremony uniting Nguyen Thi Tuyet Oahn to Phoung Van Hai, and her sister Nguyen Thi Kieu Anh to Nguyen The Hung.

The ceremony, with a Navy chaplain assisting, was performed in a large tent used for classes and community affairs, one of the scores of tents that hold 18,000 refugees on this Marine Corps base.

Refugees ring wedding bells in a big way

TRIBUNE Dispatch

CAMP PENDLETON — The first wedding in "Little Saigon" was a big one.

A brother and sister married two other Vietnamese yesterday at the refugee camp here.

Nguyen Thi Hung took Nguyen Thi Kieu Anh as his bride, and his sister, Nguyen Thi Tuyet Oanh, was married to Phuong Van Hai in a 50-minute Roman Catholic ceremony performed by the Rev. Peter Cho, a refugee priest.

The ceremony, with a Navy chaplain assisting, was performed in a large tent used for classes and community affairs, one of the scores of tents that accommodate 18,000 refugees here.

The wedding party traveled by jeep to another tent at Camp Talega for a reception and the cutting of a cake, which, along with flowers, had been donated by area merchants.

All four refugees were already assigned to the same tent, along with about a dozen other men and women. The couples declined special honeymoon tents offered by Marine Corps officials, electing instead to stay in the tent with their families.

"They'll just have to shift the cots around a bit" to set up housekeeping, a Marine spokesman said. Honeymoon trips will have to await the finding of sponsors and the completion of security checks and other paperwork.

Hung had long planned to marry Kieu Anh on May 22 in Saigon, until they had to flee. His sister had been engaged in Vietnam also, and since all four fiances wound up in the same refugee camp the father of Hung and Oanh decided that both weddings should proceed.



REFUGEE WEDDING— The first Vietnamese wedding at Camp Pendleton since the huge influx of refugees started in April, turned out to be a double affair on Thursday. At left following the ceremony are groom Ngyuen The Hung, 21, and bride Nguyen This Kieu Anh, 19. At right are groom Phuong Van Hai, 20 and his bride, Nguyen Thi Tyet Oanh, 18.

Reaction mixed to Betty

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (UPI) — Some Vietnamese refugees were honored and pleased by Betty Ford's surprise visit to "Little Saigon." Others were miffed they didn't get a chance to prepare a better welcome and most didn't know she was there.

Thirty refugees went right on watching a ping pong tournament as the U.S. first lady went past Wednesday on a tour of camp eight, one of the tent cities that shelter 18,000 Southeast Asian refugees on this large Marine Corps base between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

REFUGEES' OASIS OF BEAUTY

2 Pendleton Weddings Fulfill Vietnam Plans

BY KATHY BURKE

Times Staff Writer

It is only what is expected of so many brides—that they drift to the altar on some cloud of beauty and attainment.

But when the two Vietnamese brides walked down the aisle in white ao-dais with white gloves and white parasols, there were not only the craning of necks and long, approving stares as they went to the altar on the arms of their fiancés.

For the couples, it was the fulfillment of plans begun in Vietnam.

And for those refugees attending the wedding it was an oasis of beauty and ritual in the midst of their routine lives. Somehow, it seemed they were applauding the respite.

The couples, Nguyen Thi Tuyet Oanh, 18, and Phuong Van Hai, 19, and Nguyen The Hung, 24, and Nguyen Thi Kieu Anh, 21, had been engaged in Vietnam before evacuation.

Hung and Kieu Anh, in fact, were to have been married Thursday—in Saigon.

Hung and Oanh are brother and sister, and when they arrived at Camp Pendleton their father decided both should be married at the camp "because we want to get them out of here together."

The sides of the St. Francis parish (Camp 5) tent church were rolled up for the benefit of spectators and members of news media. Long before the brides and grooms arrived those in attendance had overflowed seating space inside. There was room for only 200 on benches inside the tent.

About 25 members of the choir stood throughout the service around a tiny orange organ next to the plywood altar and about 200 spectators stood outside.

Most of the High Wedding Mass was recited and sung in Vietnamese, and although most of the liturgy is joyous, the couples sat soberfaced in their chairs on either side of the aisle,

flanked by members of their families and friends.

After the couples recited their vows and exchanged rings they had brought with them from Vietnam, the Rev. Peter Cho, Catholic refugee priest and pastor of St. Francis, who officiated, told them in Vietnamese:

"I want to say a few words to you at this important moment of your lives. Your lives in the United States will not be easy. In days ahead, you will not see your lives as full of beautiful flowers and joy as today.

"When you are facing difficulties, must pray to God to protect you, to help you to give you strength and remember always—pray to those who have helped you."

After the service, the couples climbed into a green Marine Corps van and were driven to the Buddhist Center in Camp 2, which had been decorated with real and paper flowers for the reception.

The Vietnamese began singing toast, wedding and love songs.

Kieu Anh and Hung thanked everyone who had helped with the wedding.

"We are very happy," Hung said. "We are proud that we are not lonely now."

Both couples were students in Vietnam. **Please Turn to Page 25, Col. 3**

★ Los Angeles Times Fri., May 23, 1975—Part 1 25

REFUGEE WEDDINGS

Continued from Third Page

nam. Hung was in his fifth year of medical school. They said they hope to try to continue their studies here in the United States.

A priest in Texas is sponsoring Kieu Anh and Hung but Hai and Oanh as yet have no sponsor.

After the expressions of gratitude, after the pink and white cakes had been cut and served, rice was thrown

and the couples prepared to return to their camps.

The van that had brought them to the reception took them away—but not to the honeymoon tents offered by the Marine Corps.

They had chosen instead to return to the tent-homes of their families.

Enough for now, they said, that they had finished what they had planned in Vietnam.

They were married.



DOUBLE WEDDING—Phuong Van Ho and new wife, Nguyen Thi Huong, are followed by Nguyen Thi Huong and his bride, Nguyen Thi Huong.

The two couples were married in a room at Camp Pendleton. Both couples had been engaged before they left Vietnam. The bride is the daughter of a high-ranking official.

Fourth Refugee Camp Set

FT. INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa. (UPI) — In the afternoon heat and humidity, the deserted, whitewashed barracks that will soon house thousands of Vietnamese refugees smell of mildew and roach spray.

In the barracks stand narrow Army bunks covered with dust on scuffed linoleum floors. The drinking water is warm and has a bitter taste.

Cement floors in the dungeon-like latrines are damp. Porcelain sinks are stained from years of use. Exposed pipes sweat from the humidity. There is absolutely no privacy.

There are no shade trees to protect the two-story wood frame buildings from the sun.

But the barracks at Ft. Indiantown Gap are a major improvement in living conditions for about 15,000 Vietnamese refugees who have known nothing but crowded ships and tropical tent cities for the last few weeks.

The first refugees are expected to arrive next week.

The Gap was built between 1933 and 1940 as a training facility for the Pennsylvania National Guard.

During World War II and the Korean War it was a processing center for soldiers going overseas and in recent years has served as headquarters for the Guard and a few specialized Army units.

1,100 Refugees Want to Go Home

WASHINGTON (AP)—More than 1,100 refugees want to return to Indochina so far, but U.N. officials have been unable to get assurances they won't be punished, Congress was told Thursday.

Ambassador L. Dean Brown, director of President Ford's Indochina refugee task force, said the new Communist governments in South Vietnam and Cambodia "are now being obstructive."

"As of now," he said, "the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees does not feel in a safe enough position to send anyone back."

Testifying before the House refugee subcommittee, Brown said refugees wanting to return to Indochina are not yet being told of the problem in hopes it can be solved.

He said the U.N. refugee commission, which has taken responsibility for returning the refugees, asked the new governments for assurances the returnees will not be punished but has gotten no commitment.

The U.N. commission had processed 670 refugees for return to Indochina as of Tuesday, Brown said, and that figure is expected to rise to 1,000 by the end of this week.

He said 130 refugees in the three U.S. centers have said they wish to return home, 100 of them at Ft. Chaffee, Ark.

The refugees being processed for return include a number who did not want to leave their native countries, such as crew members of ships and boats that took refugees out of Indochina, Brown said.

Brown also told the subcommittee the bottleneck over getting security clearances for refugees wanting to stay in the United States has been broken but said the next bottleneck will be getting sponsors to move the refugees into new homes and jobs.

Indochina Refugees Want To Return

WASHINGTON (AP) — governments in South Vietnam and Cambodia "are now being obstructive." Some 1,120 refugees want to return to Indochina so far but United Nations officials have been unable to get assurances they won't be punished. Congress was told Thursday.

Ambassador L. Dean Brown, director of President Ford's Indochina refugee task force, said the new Communist

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VIETNAM REFUGEES TRADING IN GOLD

NEW YORK (AP) — Most of a one-tael piece is about Vietnamese refugee families \$179, compared with \$176 for a coming into the United States one-ounce gold piece.

"are not destitute," says the head of an American firm that is exchanging American dollars and travelers' checks for unusual Southeast Asian gold and foreign currency. "The refugees have also brought in French francs and Dutch guilders, which we also exchange. They also have, of course, South Vietnamese bank notes, which are practically worthless now. But we advise them to hold on to them."

Nicholas Deak of the banking group Deak, Perera & Co. said his firm was called in by the U.S. State Department and military officials when refugees first began arriving on Guam early this month. He said many of the refugees prepared for the fall of the country by exchanging their currency for gold before leaving for the United States.

Because the Vietnamese were carrying unusual types of gold pieces and unusual foreign currency, such as the Thai baht, most local banks and savings and loan associations were unable to provide an exchange, he said. "It shows once again that gold is the ultimate value, not paper money," Deak said.

Gold in Southeast Asia is weighed in taels, which are slightly heavier than the troy ounces standard throughout the Western world. "More than half the refugees are children, so of course they wouldn't have any," he said. "But most of the family heads have it."

"These gold pieces often come in very, very thin sheets," said Deak. The refugees "hide them in shoes, in belts, in handkerchiefs, in bras — they pull them out from everywhere." Many of the refugees want travelers' checks rather than American dollars in exchange for their gold, he said, "because they are afraid they will lose them."

A one-tael gold piece generally comes in two and a third small sheets of gold — about the thickness of aluminum foil — that can be wrapped around the finger, he said. The value The Deak company has set up mobile units at refugee camps in Arkansas and Florida and has plans to set up another at Indiantown Gap, Pa., where refugees are expected to begin arriving Sunday, he said.

Refugee Critics Are Criticized

Editor, The Union: We Americans should be grateful to Mrs. A. B. for her May 9 letter telling us about the "Vietnamese thing." I for one had no idea we were "literally dragging the people from their homes and country."

I wish she would tell us how we did this "dragging." With guns and bayonets at their backs? After Congress refused the South Vietnamese people even the guns to continue their fight, I felt shame. Then, when I mistakenly believed we were trying to save lives by getting some of them away from their Communist invaders, I was glad we possessed some decency and humanity, after all.

Instead Mrs. A. B. informed us of our true villainous behavior. We're even more wicked than I'd dreamed possible.

ANITA SCHENCK
San Diego

Refugee Adviser Says Pendleton Well-Organized

By DONALD H. HARRISON
Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

Gaetana Enders, a diplomat's wife who built an organization that operated 17 refugee camps in Cambodia, completed a tour of Camp Pendleton yesterday with praise for the Marine Corps.

"The camp is beautifully organized," she told a reporter by telephone before leaving for Washington where she will be sworn in today as a member of a presidential committee on refugees.

The Marines treat the refugees with "dignity, kindness and politeness," she said. "The refugees have the feeling that they couldn't be treated better."

Mrs. Enders arrived at Camp Pendleton Monday night and spent most of her time at the San Onofre Quonset hut area where most of the Cambodian refugees are lodged.

'THEIR FRIEND'

She said she toured the camp even before being sworn in because she wanted the Cambodians to know "I was their friend Gaetana in Cambodia, and I am their friend Gaetana here."

After three days at Camp Pendleton, Mrs. Enders said, she believed the chief complaint to be the watery quality of the rice served the refugees. One improvement, she said she would recommend to President Ford would be field trips for refugee children "so that they can see something of the United States" while their parents go through processing.

STARTED IN 1970

The Italian-born Mrs. Enders is married to Thomas Enders, now assistant secretary of state for economic affairs. On Sept. 27, 1972, while charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, her husband was nearly killed when a terrorist bomb exploded in a parked car as he passed en route to work. A guard and a civilian passerby were killed in that incident.

Mrs. Enders began an organization called International Volunteers of Health and Assistance to Refugees shortly after her arrival in Cambodia in 1970. She said "it began with three women and \$500" and was aiding 22,000 refugees at 17 camps in the Phnom Penh area until last month when Cambodia fell to the Khmer Rouge.

Compared to the camps her organization operated, Camp Pendleton "is the Ritz," Mrs. Enders said.

"We had nothing to match the sanitation here, and we didn't have nearly enough beds," she said. But the organization was able to provide food, clothing and medicine to refugees and drive them to hospitals if necessary.

Mrs. Enders said she plans to return to Camp Pendleton June 9, perhaps with other members of President Ford's commission.

When First Lady Betty Ford saw Mrs. Enders at Camp Pendleton on Wednesday, she congratulated her on being appointed to the commission headed by John Eisenhower.

"I'm glad to see that the President had enough sense to put at least one woman on that commission," Mrs. Ford told her.

Refugees Ask Return, Peril Hinted

*Related Stories —
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WASHINGTON (AP) — As many as 1,130 refugees want to return to Indochina so far but United Nations officials have been unable to get assurances they won't be punished, Congress was told yesterday.

Ambassador L. Dean Brown, director of President Ford's Indochina refugee task force, said the new Communist governments in South Vietnam and Cambodia "are now being obstructive."

"As of now," he said, "the U.N. high commissioner for refugees does not feel in a safe enough position to send anyone back."

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The U.N. commission had processed 670 refugees for return to Indochina as of Tuesday, Brown said, and that figure is expected to rise to 1,000 by the end of the week.

The refugees being processed for return include a number who did not want to leave their native countries, such as crew members of ships and boats that took refugees out of Indochina, Brown said.

He said there were 130,425 refugees as of 5 a.m. EDT Tuesday, including 50,805 in the Pacific and 64,684 in the United States — of whom 18,432 have been resettled.

He said about 35,000 sponsors will be needed to take responsibility for settling refugee families.

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REFUGEE CLIPS

28 MAY 1975

U.S. Backs Return Of 32 Refugees

By CAROL OLTEN
Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

CAMP PENDLETON — homesick here and now I
This U.S. State Department want to take my chances.”
is working toward the return He does not know if his
of 32 Vietnamese refugees to wife and daughter are safe
their homeland, a spokes- — “I can only hope and wish
man said yesterday. that,” he said.

The 32 persons, most of Le Van Be, a 20-year-old
whom left families in Viet- mechanic, said he wants to
nam during last month's return to his home in Can
massive evacuations, have Tho, also to be with his fami-
indicated they want to re- ly. His mother was not
turn and have been inter- among the evacuees and “I
viewed by consular officer do not know what I will do
Bob Stebbins, he said. here,” he said. “I do not

The government is not know if I can work as a
discouraging people who mechanic.”
want to go back, he added. Another mechanic, Le Tan
But details as to how and Thanh, left a wife and five
when the refugees might re- children in Saigon. “I am
turn have yet to be worked homesick for them,” he said.

‘TAKE MY CHANCES’

Of those wishing to leave
the camp, where 17,986 refu-
gees currently are
quartered, about a dozen are
former members of the Viet-
namese air force.

Le Tan Loi, 27, a pilot, left
his wife and 3-year-old
daughter in Saigon.

“I knew I had to get out to
save my life and there was
not time to take them with
me,” he said. “But I am

LOVE FOR FAMILY

Le Duc, a pilot, spoke for a
group of about five Viet-
namese in Camp No. 8 on the
U.S. Marine Corps base.

“The men do not want to
stay without their families,”
he said. “They love their
homeland and want to go
home even if they don't
know about their safety.”

Duc said he did not believe
there were many family
groups in the camp wanting
to return to Vietnam.

Refugees Again Weep With Joy

See Jack Murphy column — Page H-1

By HOMER CLANCE
Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

CAMP PENDLETON — Tears of joy were shed for the second time within three days by the families of two South Vietnam couples who were wed here Thursday.

The first tears came at the Thursday double wedding, the first in "Little Saigon," with the Rev. Peter Cho, a Vietnamese priest of the Franciscan order, officiating.

Yet uncertainty followed for the two couples and the 14 members of their families because they had no sponsors and did not know where they might be sent in this country.

SURPRISE PRESENT

The Rev. Martin McKeon, pastor at San Luis Rey Mission in Oceanside and also a Franciscan, dispelled those uncertainties with a surprise wedding gift yesterday.

The newlyweds and their families were gathered in Camp Area 5 on the pretext they had to attend a meeting.

Father Martin congratulated the two couples, saying he had heard about the wedding and came from his parish in Oceanside.

"We were worried how this sponsorship would go," he told them, with Father Cho acting as an interpreter. **'SPONSOR YOU'**

"My parish wants to give you a wedding gift — we want to sponsor all of you," he told the group to a burst of applause.

"Our men are now looking for a home where you can all be together," he continued. "We will help you find work; we will help you go to school — this is our wedding present to you."

Father McKeon showed the family group a picture of the parish and told them it is 200 years old, then asked:

"Will you accept our invitation as your sponsor?" He heard a chorus of "yes," then told the group that forms are in the mail to him and just the paperwork is needed now.

'VERY VALUABLE'

The families called the sponsorship a "very, very valuable present."

The double wedding of Nguyen The Hung to Nguyen Thi Kieu Anh and Phuong Van Hai to Nguyen Thi Tuyet Oanh could only have

occurred in the lives of those displaced by war.

A few days before their originally planned wedding, Hung, 25, and Miss Anh, 24, had to flee their native country. Hai, 19, and Miss Oanh, 18, Hung's sister, had not set a date when they fled.

The four newlyweds were attending the University of Saigon when they left Vietnam. Hung was a fifth-year medical student, while his wife was studying law. Hai and Miss Oanh were both studying economics and commerce.

The family includes seven students, three tailors, one typist and three farmers. They range in age from 8 to 61.

TRADITIONAL WEDDING

Father Cho said the couples requested a traditional Vietnamese Catholic wedding, followed by an American reception. He was assisted by Lt. Cmdr. Evan Greco, a Navy chaplain.

Because Father Cho is a Franciscan, residents of Camp Area 5 named their parish St. Francis.

Meanwhile, 10,000 of the Vietnam refugees at "Little Saigon" on this Marine base remained without sponsors or awaiting certification of sponsors.

The total population as of yesterday stood at 17,862, with 180 Cambodian refugees expected overnight.

8,374 PROCESSED

The temporary relocation center has received 26,536 refugees thus far and processed 8,374.

Officials said the seven to 10 days originally required for security clearances for refugees has been reduced to some extent since initial screening begins in Guam.

There have been 14 babies born of refugees, but no deaths have occurred so far.

English classes are being conducted in all camp areas with Vietnamese instructors. The students are also getting a little historical and geographical background on their new country.

Basic knowledge, such as the value of U.S. coins and currency, how to board a bus, how to dial a telephone, and when and where to cross a street, is also being taught, officials said.

Nurses serving refugee camp do double duty

By PATRICIA DIBSIE
TRIBUNE Staff Writer

CAMP PENDLETON — It has been a long three weeks for the more than 24 volunteer Red Cross nurses who have been putting in eight-hour shifts at the refugee camp here. Almost all of them have been working at their regular jobs in hospitals for eight hours besides coming to work here.

"We're real proud of these nurses," Milton Cheverton, San Diego County chapter chairman, said. "But we realize that they're a very tired bunch of women. They won't give up putting in the time because they feel they're needed. We're glad they're staying because we need every one of them."

Cheverton and O.L. Thoreson, division manager for San Diego and Imperial counties for the Red Cross, were at a national convention in Boston when the refugees began arriving at Pendleton. They were told that they might be asked for help so they cut their convention trip short and came home.

Two days later official word was received that they were needed. That night they had assembled volunteers and were at the camp.

"I assumed that we would be asked for help," Cheverton said, "so we were ready to head up there immediately."

The first volunteers were nurses. Portable dispensaries were set up in trailers and were staffed by two Red Cross nurses and a navy corpsman. A dispensary was set up at each of the eight camp sites.

Mrs. Myna Achenbaugh was one of the first nurses to arrive. "My husband and I had just arrived in San Diego," she said. "I found a job and was supposed to start right away but I feel the need to be here."

The nurses had been heading the dispensary staffs for only a few days when Vietnamese doctors asked whether they could work with them in the trailers. "These people are amazing," Mrs. Achenbaugh said. "They all have been pitching in to help one another. It's really inspiring."

One of the first doctors to volunteer was Dr. Truong Thi Bach. She taught medicine at the University of Saigon.

She received her medical training in Paris and New York.

The doctor who works on the same shift with Dr. Bach is Dang Thien. He was a student of Dr. Bach.

Dr. Bach speaks English fluently — but with a heavy French accent. Thien speaks no English. Both are pediatricians.

"It's a great comfort to my people to have these trailers to bring their children," Dr. Bach said. "Mostly the medical problems are small — upset stomachs, upper respiratory problems and scrapes and cuts from playing on the hills. The mothers would not bother the hospital people for these problems but they know they are welcome here — no matter how small the problem."

Dr. Bach said many of the children have nothing wrong with them when their mothers bring them to be checked. "It's a new country, new food — they just want to make sure their children are okay," she said.

Dr. Bach left Saigon on three hours' notice. "An American friend told my husband and I to get out of the country now," she said. Her husband was president of a bank. "We were very lucky to get the information to leave when we did," she said.

Thien is a bachelor. He was drafted six months before he fled South Vietnam. He was working in the government at the city hall in Saigon when a friend arrived and said they had better get out of the country right away. They both left hours later with no time to pack any personal belongings.

Both doctors said they were grateful to be in America. "It is true that these tents are not much, and the nights are cold," Thien said through a translator, "but these tents are on free soil. What more could I ask."

Both doctors work at camp hospitals in addition to the time spent at the dispensaries. Both say they are glad to be busy helping their people.

Other Red Cross volunteers have been working as canteen operators, caseworkers, interpreters and assistants in immunization and X-ray units.

More than 15,000 pieces of clothing have been distributed by the San Diego chapter.

Although the Red Cross is not doing any sponsorship work, volunteers have manned phones 24 hours a day since the beginning of May to answer questions from the public on requirements for sponsorship.

In the beginning the Red Cross supplied 24 volunteers daily. The number is now up to 74.

There is a crucial need for more registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses, Cheverton said. The medical staffs are handling more than 1,000 cases a day — mostly bronchial ailments, colds and acci-

dental injuries, he said.

One volunteer nurse told of a conversation she had with a Vietnamese grandmother. "The Red Cross been very helpful," the grandmother said, "first in Saigon, then in Guam and now here in America."

San Diego elementary school pupils put together more than 3,000 friendship boxes for the Vietnamese children. They contained toilet articles, crayons, paper and toys.

The Red Cross chapter has received hundreds of thank you notes from the refugee children. "I'm very happy to receive it and I thank you for having thoughts about us," one note read. "I hope you are always young and joyful," wrote another child.

But the most common message on each note besides thanking the children for the friendship boxes was "Will you write to me about you in another letter?"

The notes are being distributed to the school children who packed the boxes. Each box had the signature of the child who was responsible for filling it, Cheverton said.





VISIT — Diane Rounsaville, a Palomar College student nurse, left, and Sue Getz, a Grossmont Hospital registered nurse, join a doctor

visiting a refugee dormitory tent at Camp Pendleton. Below, Dr. Truong Thi Bach checks a patient. — Photos by Thane McIntosh

SAN LUIS REY

Mission offers refugees aid

By BOB DIETRICH
TRIBUNE Military Writer

CAMP PENDLETON — Two centuries-old Mission San LE Luis Rey, not far from "Little Saigon" here, has opened its doors — and heart — to some of America's newest pioneers.

The Rev. Martin McKune and his parish have offered homes to 18 members of a South Vietnamese refugee family group united Thursday following the first weddings of Indochina war victims.

The Roman Catholic parish responded to the appeals of Navy Cmdr. David Plank, a Protestant chaplain, and his friend, Lt. Cmdr. Evan Greco, a Catholic chaplain who assisted at the weddings.

Few of the 600 Vietnamese and Americans who attended the gala reception after the double Roman Catholic wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Phoung Van Hai and Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen The Hung realized that their smiles masked sadness.

Mr. Phoung and the new Mrs. Nguyen are brother and sister who married sweethearts they met in South Vietnam. By Vietnamese custom, they would not abandon the relatives here with them.

"They refused a special honeymoon tent we prepared for them," said Chaplain Plank. "Their feelings for family responsibility is something not many Western families can understand."

Two members of the new in-law family had been offered homes in Texas. But Hung, 24, a medical student, and Nguyen, 19, an economics student, insisted the entire family stay together — even in the tent camp now teeming with 18,000 refugees.

"It was a shadow over the happiness of the wedding," Chaplain Plank said. "I telephoned some Protestant ministers in San Clemente and Oceanside — differences of theology do not matter, but the mention of a family of 18 did, apparently."

It was then that Chaplain Plank and Chaplain Greco — both veterans of the Vietnam War — decided to telephone Mr. McKune of the San Luis Rey Mission.

"We called at 7 a.m. yesterday," Chaplain Plank said. "At noon, Father McKune called back and said he had more than enough members of his parish willing to support the family group."

"It was kind of a second marriage, these refugees with the people of the parish."

"As soon as we can get the paperwork finished, our newlyweds will go on their honeymoons."

The Nguyen-Phong family group will live among San Luis Rey parishioners.

"They'll be close together," Chaplain Plank said. "I feel they are going to contribute to the community."



HAPPY FAMILY — Nguyen Thuong, holding Huy, walks through Camp Pendleton with wife, Hue, his mother Sang, and nephews Duc Dao, 8, and Hanh Dao, 5. — Photo by George Smith

The new family includes three farmers, two tailors, plus young students and homemakers.

Chaplain Greco said Catholic Community Services, one of the eight volunteer agencies operating under federal funds to resettle Indochina refugees, is prepared to offer financial aid to San Diego County residents who offer sponsorship to refugees.

"The San Diego Diocese is prepared to provide up to \$300 for each refugee sponsored," he said.

REQUESTS TO JOIN MILITARY LOOM

Refugee Enlistments Proposed

By
DONALD H. HARRISON
Staff Writer
The San Diego Union

CAMP PENDLETON — Serious consideration should be given by the Congress to permitting Indochinese refugees in this country to enlist in the United States armed forces, the government's senior civilian coordinator here said yesterday.

Nick Thorne, chief of the civilian Interagency Task Force, told Rep. Lionel Van Deerlin, D-San Diego, that requests by refugees to enlist in the armed services are expected in great numbers when refugees now on Guam arrive at Camp Pendleton.

Van Deerlin and daughters Vicki, 24; Susie, 21, and son, Jeff, 20, toured refugee facilities here yesterday, and the subject came up during a briefing given the family by Thorne.

GOOD IDEA

The congressmen did not comment directly to Thorne, but later told a reporter he thought permitting the refugees to enlist was a good idea "providing we have an airtight screening system."

"I wouldn't want any bad apples, like the guards from Con Son," said Van Deerlin in a reference to a notorious prison where Communist prisoners were held in tiger cages.

Thorne told the congressman Hungarian refugees

and Cuban refugees were permitted to enlist. He told a reporter later he believed congressional approval would be required, adding that question was being researched.

LOWER CLASS

Thorne said the next group of refugees arriving in Camp Pendleton will be of a "lower social-economic class" than the camp's current population which includes many well-educated former residents of Saigon.

He said many of the new wave of refugees will be "rice farmers and fisher-

men" while others will be former members of the South Vietnamese Navy. The former Navy personnel, Thorne told Van Deerlin, in many instances "took their ships and kept going." It was this group he said he anticipated requests from to join the U.S. military.

NO NEED FOR FACILITY Thorne said he believed the refugees would be placed in American society, without need for creating a facility like an Indian reservation — as a civilian official at Ft.

Chaffee reportedly suggested.

He said refugees should be required to take 10-day courses in "survival English" as well as a general orientation course, explaining such basics of American life as the value of different currency and coin.

After a brief tour of the volunteer agencies which are helping the 17,615 refugees now in camp to find sponsors, the Van Deerlin family was escorted through the Tent Camp 8 area by the area commander, Maj. Jack Chapman.

75% LACK FUNDS

Van Deerlin asked Chapman if rumors of refugees with bags full of money had any basis in fact. Chapman said 75 per cent of the refugees in his camp had no spending money at all.

The congressmen said his mail was running 11 to 1 against bringing the refugees here, and said Reps. Bob Wilson, R-San Diego, and Clair W. Burgener, R-Rancho Santa Fe, were reporting higher totals.

He said much of the mail came from people who were once in favor of the Vietnamese War, and "now seem to resent this reminder of the failure of American foreign policy."

The congressman said he planned to tell his colleagues upon his return to Washington Thursday from the Memorial Day recess "that I've seen the camp, and that it's being well run."

B-4 THE SAN DIEGO UNION

Tuesday, May 27, 1975



—Staff photo

Rep. Lionel Van Deerlin, D-San Diego, chats with Vietnamese refugees at Camp Pendleton. The con-

gressman said permitting refugees to enlist in armed forces of United States might be good idea.

Oceanside Mission To Sponsor Newlywed Refugees, Families

By WAYMAN DUNLAP
Staff Writer

OCEANSIDE — When Father Martin McKeon informed his parish at the San Luis Rey Mission they had volunteered to sponsor two recently married Vietnamese couples, he wasn't surprised at their response.

"It was tremendous," the 49-year-old pastor said today. "They were

even applauding in church."

It was revealed over the weekend that the Mission parish had agreed to sponsor the two young couples and 14 other family members, but not all of the 3,000 members knew of it.

McKeon said after the wedding at the refugee camp last Thursday, he was talking to several chaplains at the base "and they told me there was a real cloud hanging over the wedding."

In spite of the joyousness of the event, all the new couples had to look forward to was "going back and waiting," the pastor said.

"I felt simply that our parish, with the response we've had in other things, that they would be agreeable to taking over sponsorship for the two couples and their immediate families. So I notified the chaplains that we would do it. Our people didn't find out until Saturday night and Sunday."

Several persons offered additional contributions after Mass, he said, and telephone calls offering help began coming in from San Diego and Los Angeles.

"A reporter asked me whether I'd gotten any 'flak' over the decision," the pastor said, and when he repeated to his congregation the reporter's questions, "they just laughed."

Volunteer work on behalf of the two couples — Nguyen The Hung, 24, a medical student, and Nguyen Thi Kieu Anh, 21, and Phuong Van Hai, 19, and his bride Nguyen Thi Tuyet Oanh, 19 — has already started with plans for tutoring of the non-English speaking family members to begin soon.

The other members of the families include persons ranging from eight to 61, McKeon said. Among them are three farmers, three tailors and a typist. The children's age are from eight to 16.

The pastor said when he personally visited the two couples, all former Saigon University students, to tell them of the sponsorship, Nguyen The Hung spoke for the group.

"You can see emotionally we're overwhelmed," said Nguyen The Hung. "You gave us the most beautiful wedding present anybody could receive — love and acceptance by your people."

McKeon said he anticipated it would cost approximately \$5,000 for the first month's sponsorship, all of which is being paid out of parish funds from contributions. Although there have been indications that the red tape will be cut, he said, it will still take at least a week for the arrangements to be completed, plus he must find living quarters for the families.

All will live in Oceanside, he said.

30—The Blade-Tribune

Sunday, May 25, 1975



REFUGEE WEDDING—The first Vietnamese wedding at Camp Pendleton since the huge influx of refugees started in April, turned out to be a double affair Thursday. With Rev. Peter Cho (R) officiating (L-R) Nguyen The Hung, 21, exchanges rings with Nguyen Thi Kieu Anh, 19, while Nguyen Thi Tuyet Oanh, 18, waits with her new husband Phung Van Hai, 20.

Ford Signs \$405 Million Bill to Resettle Refugees

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Ford signed a \$405 million legislative package Saturday to provide funds to find homes, jobs and a fresh start for more than 100,000 Indochina war refugees.

Mr. Ford signed two measures. The first appropriates \$405 million in special assistance. It provides \$305 million for the State Department to use in the relocation and resettlement of refugees. Of this more than \$70 million will go to nine private, voluntary agencies to assist in resettlement of the refugees.

Another \$65 million will go to the Defense Department to cover its cost in airlifting the refugees while \$155 million is for food, medical care and other items. Also \$15 million will assist 20,000 refugees headed for third countries.

The remaining, \$100 million will be made available through the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to use in aiding the refugees with health and job counseling services in their resettlement in the United States.

The second measure authorizes total spending of \$455 million for the refugees, giving Congress the option to appropriate another \$50 million should it be needed.

The authorization bill requires the government to make sure the refugees are told that they are free to return to their homelands if they wish and that their expenses would be paid. The money will be available until June 30, 1976.

As of Saturday there were 63,168 refugees in Pacific camps, 46,332 in U.S. resettlement camps and 19,467 processed and released.

Refugee Task Force's Director Steps Down

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Ambassador L. Dean Brown resigned late Friday from the Indochina Refugee Relief Task Force that he organized and directed for the six weeks that it has been in operation.

Mrs. Julia Vadala Taft, 33, was selected to succeed him.

Brown, who was retired from the State Department and had become president of the Middle East Institute in Washington, told his staff he was forced to quit the task force because the institute urgently needed him back.

He had taken a two-week leave of absence from the institute on April 18 to get the task force going.

Mrs. Taft has been serving with Brown since the beginning of the task force's operation.

She has a long record of top level administration in fields related to her new job. From 1973 she was deputy assistant secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare for human development.

From 1971 to 1973, she was deputy director for health of a Cabinet committee for human resources at the White House. Also, she was special assistant to the secretary of health, education and welfare responsible for external affairs and liaison with national organizations and interest groups.

REFUGEE CAMPS MAY LAST—EISENHOWER

NEW YORK (AP)—Some Indochina refugees may never leave the temporary camps set up for them, John Eisenhower, chairman of President Ford's advisory committee on refugees, said Friday.

Eisenhower, son of the late President, said in an interview on CBS-TV that some refugees may spend the rest of their lives in the camps because of security and literacy problems.

"There's going to be a certain number that you're almost never going to be able to parole, especially this—the group that came out after the American-sponsored refugees left, that 70,000 people that made their way out on their own on sampans. Among that group, you'll probably find a few more people you can't do much with," Eisenhower said.

Asked what would happen to those refugees, Eisenhower said: "I think you'll have a camp . . . hopefully very small, for almost the lifetimes, possibly, of those people."

Eisenhower's committee was set up to monitor refugee programs and make recommendations.

LAND IN ARIZONA

John Wayne Offered to Help Refugees, Ky Says

BY JOHN DREYFUSS

Times Staff Writer

Actor John Wayne has offered to help get 17,000 acres of land in Arizona for former South Vietnamese Premier Nguyen Cao Ky, Ky said Friday in San Diego.

He revealed the offer at Lindbergh Field before boarding a commercial airliner for Washington, D.C., where he joined his wife and children.

Presumably, the Arizona land would be used to resettle South Vietnamese refugees, although Ky did not elaborate on the situation beyond stating:

"I received a letter from John Wayne, the actor, offering to help me get 17,000 acres in Arizona."

Wayne told The Times he "acquainted Ky with a situation in Arizona where he might be able to acquire quite a bit of land for his people."

The actor said he owns a ranch

near the "good commercial farmland" that Ky might get, but that he does not intend to give any land to Ky, nor to buy land for him.

"I came up with a way he might come by the land," Wayne said. He declined to elaborate.

Ky has said he wants to return to the West Coast to start a farming community for Vietnamese refugees.

A source close to the former premier said Ky was "amazed" by Wayne's offer.

Ky said he will spend a week in Washington with his family, which has been staying there with friends since fleeing Saigon shortly before that city fell to the Viet Cong.

He then plans to go to Auburn in Northern California, where a temporary center for about 400 refugees is being established by a private inter-

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REFUGEE LAND

Continued from First Page

national relief agency called Food for the Hungry, Inc. The group is Ky's sponsor in the United States.

A Food for the Hungry spokesman said the organization has a 60-day lease, with an optional continuance for an additional 30 days on a 450-acre, 52-building former tuberculosis hospital.

Larry Ward, president of the Los Angeles-based agency, said it will sponsor about 100 Vietnamese families at the Weimar Medical Center.

The evacuees will be helped in relocation, job placement and "general orientation to American life," Ward said.

Besides Ky, the refugee group will include several former cabinet ministers, about 20 physicians and "a host of just plain people who had distinguished themselves in Vietnam through their service to others and their help to mission organizations and voluntary agencies such as ours," Ward said.

The announced effort by Food for the Hungry is indicative of a growing trend toward group sponsorship of Vietnamese refugees, according to Nick Thorne, coordinator of the federal interagency task force at Camp Pendleton.

All the verified sponsors announced before Friday had been individuals, but Thorne said city, county and state governments as well as large corporations have offered to sponsor groups of Vietnamese.

He said that "we are not going to resettle Vietnamese in any heavy concentrations in any one community. There will be a leavening throughout our society."

However, nearly 18,000 refugees remain at the Marine base awaiting sponsorship and security clearance.

There has been growing apprehension among refugees that some families will not get sponsors.

Thorne said it was unlikely that any family would go unsponsored, but he said he does not know when sponsors will be found for all the Vietnamese.

About 32 refugees at Camp Pendleton have said they want to return to Vietnam.

And at Ft. Chaffee, Ark., a spokesman for 107 refugees at a resettlement camp said the group will hold a protest demonstration unless the United States arranges for its return to Vietnam by Thursday.

A Pentagon spokesman said the group's request had been referred to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. The U.N. will send representatives to Ft. Chaffee to interview the refugees, an Army official said.

VIETNAM REFUGEE RULED GUILTY OF SHOPLIFTING

FT. CHAFFEE, Ark. (UPI) — One refugee was found guilty and trials were set for two others on misdemeanor charges at this Vietnamese relocation center, officials announced yesterday.

Capt. David Curtis, staff judge advocate for the interagency task force handling the relocation program, said a 22-year-old Vietnamese man was convicted of shoplifting.

Maximum penalty for the charge is a fine of not more than \$300 and confinement of not more than six months. Sentencing was deferred until the problem of where the man would be confined if a jail sentence is imposed is resolved, Curtis said. He said the U.S. marshal, judge and attorney were studying the case.

Others facing hearings Thursday are a 15-year-old youth accused of assaulting a Vietnamese woman and an American accused of fighting with a refugee.

A-6 THE SAN DIEGO UNION



— Staff Photo

Former Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky of South Vietnam walks through Lindbergh Field terminal with Navy Cmdr. John W. Bian as he prepares to board a plane for Washington, D.C., and a reunion with his wife.

Refugees Miss Families, Ky Says

Former South Vietnamese Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky said yesterday that Vietnamese refugees who have expressed desires to return to Vietnam "are those people who still have family members there and are not able to get them out."

"In some cases you have women here who were forced to leave their husbands behind in the final days of the war. Others left other family members there," he said.

Ky made the remarks shortly before boarding a flight to Washington, D.C., where he will see his wife for the first time since they have been in the United States.

At San Diego's Lindbergh Field, Ky said he would stay in Washington about six days but that he does not have any plans to meet with government officials.

BRINGING FAMILY

Ky said he will return to California with his wife and six children.

The former vice air marshal said he still hopes to become a farmer and said he and a friend have explored the possibility of farming in the San Diego County area.

Ky also said he recently received an offer of farmland in Arizona from actor John Wayne.

He said most of the refu-

gees in the United States are "getting along as well as could be expected, but that some have indicated a desire to return to Vietnam."

At Camp Pendleton, 37 Vietnamese refugees have asked the State Department to arrange transportation back to Vietnam.

A State Department officer said 47 refugees at Ft. Chaffie, Ark., also have made such requests.

The requests have been turned over to the United Nations Commission on Refugees.

NAVY WELCOME

Ky's departure from San Diego went almost unnoticed. He boarded the plane after clearing the standard security procedures.

Navy Cmdr. John W. Bian of San Diego approached Ky, shook his hand and said, "I just want to welcome you to San Diego and thank you for everything you tried to do over there."

Bian said he served in Vietnam.

Ky was dressed in a soft blue blazer and gray flannel slacks, a sharp contrast to the battle fatigues he has worn while living in a tent at Camp Pendleton.

He wore an American flag pin in his lapel, and a figure of Buddha dangled from a gold chain around his neck.

"This was given me for good luck," he said.

Vietnamese Pilot Happy As Carpenter

SAN ANTONIO, Tex. (UPI) — Former South Vietnamese air force pilot Nguyen Duy Thuan now is a \$2-an-hour carpenter's helper and he is glad to get the work.

Thuan, 29, also is thankful he, his wife, Nguyen Thi Muoi, and their two children escaped from Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airport on April 28 as Viet Cong rockets poured in.

Thuan's was the first Vietnamese refugee family to arrive in San Antonio. They arrived May 14. Three days later he had a job.

DRIVER'S LICENSE

He has obtained a Texas driver's license and arrangements are being made for his 8-month-old son, Nguyen Duy Duy, to receive an artificial eye. The baby lost an eye in an accident before leaving Vietnam.

"We're getting along very well," said Thuan, who is living with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Davis. "My wife feels very good over here. She likes the United States.

The Davises, sponsors of the family, are arranging for the eye operation, Thuan said.

The former first lieutenant and cargo plane pilot said his minimum-wage job was satisfactory for now but he hopes to find higher paying employment later. He said he lost his pilot's documents while escaping but had moonlighted in carpentry, electrical wiring and plumbing while in the air force.

\$320 A MONTH

"I make \$2 an hour, minimum, and eight hours a day and five days a week. I get \$320 a month," he said. "I don't think that's very good for me, but it's a first step, you know."

Thuan said he has encountered no resentment since arriving in Texas.

"The people (at work) are very friendly. Both of them are Mexicans. They are very friendly. Some of the Mexicans don't speak English very well so now I'm starting to learn Spanish. It's easier than English."

The rest of the Thuan family speaks no English, he said, "but they'll learn."

Thuan said his family was lonesome for relatives still in Vietnam, but he has no plans to return soon. He said there is no way he can communicate with his family in Vietnam.

Sunday, May 25, 1975

THE SAN DIEGO UNION A-7

ARIZONAN ALSO IMMIGRANT**Gov. Castro To Limit Refugees**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Gov. Raul H. Castro of Arizona, who fled with his family to the United States from a Mexican revolution 50 years ago, said yesterday he is opposed to South Vietnamese refugees in the United States and plans to limit their number in Arizona.

them, I intend to be rather strict, although you can't close the state to them." He said he had received a cable from Washington a few days ago asking him what his state planned to do in sharing its number of refugees. Castro did not say whether he already had answered the federal request. "I'll try to limit them as much as possible and only pick out those cases which

are of humane treatment and consideration," Castro is in Mexico City to speak at the annual meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico. He arrived Friday for a three-day stay. Castro, born in Cananea, Sonora, Mexico, is the first Mexican-born governor in the United States. He became an American citizen in 1939.

FORD SIGNS MEASURE TO FINANCE REFUGEES

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford signed a \$405 million bill yesterday to provide the funds to find homes, jobs, and a fresh start for more than 100,000 refugees from the war in Indochina.

Contracts now can be signed with nine private, voluntary agencies to assist in resettlement of the refugees, aides said. More than \$70 million is earmarked for this purpose.

Another \$85 million of the money will go to the Defense Department to cover its cost in airlifting the refugees while \$155 million is for food, medical care and other items and \$15 million will assist 20,000 refugees headed for third countries.

Mr. Ford actually signed two measures. One appropriates \$405 million in special assistance. It provides \$305 million for the State Department to use in the relocation and resettlement of refugees. Also \$100 million will be made available through the Department of Health, Education and Welfare to use in aiding the refugees with health and job counseling services in their resettlement in the United States.

A second measure authorizes total spending of \$455 million for the refugees giving Congress the option to appropriate another \$50 million should it be needed.

'ART TREASURES' CALLED HOUSEHOLD GOODS**Vietnamese family says claim untrue**

MONTREAL (AP) — A Vietnamese refugee family said today that cargo which some officials on Guam claim as Vietnamese "art treasures" worth \$150 million are household goods and art objects worth between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

Baruch Pollack, a lawyer representing Dao Diep Khanh and her father, Dao Van Nien, said the 56 crates seized by U.S. officials on Guam over the weekend contained art objects and goods "normally found in any well-to-do home."

He said the Daos "were wealthy people and had a luxurious home in Saigon."

The lawyer said the affair was "enormously distorted and a ridiculous scandal."

The North Vietnamese

news agency apparently acting on U.S. news reports, claimed yesterday that the cargo had been looted from the national archives in Saigon and the Imperial Palace in Hue and demanded the United States return it.

The governor of Guam, Ricardo J. Bordallo, said he ordered the cargo seized when he received intelligence reports from military and other sources that the cargo should be investigated. He said the cargo had been loaded on the ship two days before Saigon surrendered and the ship sailed just one hour before the surrender.

Mrs. Dao's father is a pharmacist who has worked in Canada for seven or

eight years, Pollack said. for a month but declined to give any other information about herself or her family

Ky tells of Wayne proposal

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Nguyen Cao Ky, the former vice premier of South Vietnam, says actor John Wayne has made a "wonderful" offer — 17,000 acres of land in Arizona to provide farm work for refugees.

Ky, wearing an American flag pin on his lapel, arrived at Dulles International Airport yesterday to rejoin his family for the first time since the fall of Saigon. He had spent 18 days at Camp Pendleton before flying here.

Ky said he would return West soon and try to set up a farming community for refugees, many of whom may not be skilled to do other work.

The Evening Tribune reported yesterday that Ky likely will go to work soon for a nonprofit relief organization "which is starting a settlement center for 400 Vietnamese refugees near Sacramento.

(Food for the Hungry, a 5-year-old nonprofit relief organization which has worked in South Vietnam for several years, told the paper it was sponsoring Ky, who had been at Camp Pendleton awaiting resettlement since May 6.

(Larry Ward, president of Food for the Hungry headquartered in Glendale, said in a telephone interview yesterday that his organization has decided to sponsor Ky.

(Ward said Ky was expected to return to California in about a week and probably will help the organization set up a refugee-settlement center in Placer County near Sacramento.

(He said Ky's plans are not firm, however.

"Two days ago," Ky said on arrival in Washington, "I received a letter from John Wayne, the movie actor. He has been in the hospital and he wrote me a letter offering 17,000 acres in Arizona."

Ky, asked if he might accept, replied: "sure" and called the offer "wonderful." He plans to visit Wayne and discuss it.

Ky said he wanted to "actually work on the farm" — not just be an organizer.

Refugee Camps Leading to 'Indian Reservations' Seen

Ft. Chaffee Official's Warning on Bleak Future for Illiterate Vietnamese Echoes Eisenhower Statement

From Times Wire Services

FT. CHAFFEE, Ark.—The federal government is engaging in an encampment program that could lead to "Indian reservations" for lower-class, unskilled Vietnamese, according to the civilian coordinator of the refugee camp here.

"We think this risky—a path possibly to an Indian reservation of indefinite term. We haven't done well with real or simulated Indian reservations in the past," said Donald MacDonald, 56, who retired from the State Department last year.

MacDonald's statement came after one by U.S. refugee panel chairman John Eisenhower Friday in which he said some Indochina refugees may never leave the temporary camps set up for them.

Eisenhower, son of the late President, said in an interview on CBS-TV that some refugees may spend the rest of their lives in the camps because of security and literacy problems.

"There's going to be a certain number that you're almost never going to be able to parole, especially this—the group that came out after the American-sponsored refugees left, that 70,000 people that made their way out on their own on sampans. Among that group, you'll probably find a few more people you can't do much with," Eisenhower said.

Asked what would happen to those refugees, Eisenhower said: "I think you'll have a camp . . . hopefully very small, for almost the lifetimes, possibly, of those people."

MacDonald made his charge in a memorandum circulated among officials at Ft. Chaffee and Washington. He said nongovernment volunteer agencies should be responsible for relocating Vietnamese refugees.

The State Department denied that the government was considering putting refugees in "Indian-type reservations."

"Denied, denied, officially denied," said Eleanor Green, public affairs of-

ficer for the State Department refugee task force. "This report is totally incorrect." She said no specific areas are being set aside to place refugees in any discriminatory way. She said resettling will be determined by the availability of sponsors and jobs.

MacDonald said he circulated his memorandum among volunteer agency heads at Ft. Chaffee for their comments. He said he sent a telegram to the State Department expressing similar beliefs.

Some decision needs to be made on whether to handle the lower-class, non-English-speaking refugees that are beginning to arrive at the Arkansas camp in the same manner as the

English-speaking upper- and middle-class Vietnamese who were among the first to arrive in the United States, MacDonald said.

Another Ft. Chaffee official said he thought the decision already had been made to send the hard-to-place refugees and those who cannot be admitted because of immigration and naturalization laws to the new camp at Indiantown Gap, Pa. He predicted the Pennsylvania camp would be a long-term operation where Vietnamese are taught English and job skills before being relocated.

"It looks to me like they're going to send the 'hard-core' to Pennsylvania," said the official who asked not to be named.

Leonard Chapman, director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, said persons who did not pass security checks because they were convicted felons, drug addicts, subversives or prostitutes would not be allowed to relocate in this country, but immigration laws prohibited returning them to Vietnam against their will. Chapman said he didn't know what would be done with those refugees.

U.N.-SAIGON PROGRESS ON REFUGEE RETURN REPORTED

WASHINGTON (AP)—Negotiations between the United Nations and the South Vietnamese government over returning refugees who want to go back are proceeding favorably, says the new head of President Ford's interagency refugee task force.

"We're delighted," said Julia Vadelo Taft, who succeeded L. Dean Brown Friday as head of the task force.

The U.N. high commissioner, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, has said the Provisional Revolutionary Government authorities are cooperating "and would indeed welcome the return of those who left their country."

An estimated 1,000 refugees have indicated a desire to return to their native countries.

The refugee aid measure signed by President Ford Saturday requires the Administration to report to Congress within 30 days on how many refugees want to go back home and what actions are being taken to assist them.

The new law provides \$405 million in refugee aid.

"We have indicated to everyone at the reception centers we would help them get back to their country if they wish," Mrs. Taft said.

She said the names of those who wish to return must be submitted to the U.N. high commissioner on refugees who will submit them to the new governments of Cambodia and South Vietnam.

"The receiving country has to say yes to each one before he can return," she said.

It will be the United Nations' responsibility to transport the refugees back to their native country, she said, but there is about \$20 million available in U.S. funds to pay for such transportation.

"Money is not a problem," she added. "The question is how quickly the United Nations can move to get information on the refugees to the receiving countries and how quickly they act on it."

Vietnamese Settlers: Can They Adapt?

BY ELEANOR HOOVER
Times Human Behavior Writer

How will the Vietnamese refugees do in America?

Aside from the immediate problems of finding sponsors, homes and jobs—serious though they be—what about the subtler issues of adaptation, acceptance and keeping one's identity and cultural heritage?

Almost all knowledgeable Vietnamese-watchers credit them with enormous resiliency—the product of centuries of accommodation to waves of aggressive invaders.

Clearly, the Vietnamese are adaptable. Most of the 18,186 refugees in Camp Pendleton last week were sophisticated city-dwellers from Saigon, and many were rich. And yet right outside a tent flap, a Vietnamese mother, with workmanlike vigor,

washed off her baby in a large blue plastic dishpan.

Inside, a strikingly pretty woman in her late 30s, a widow, swept a floor which already looked clean; on the finger of one hand were three diamond rings which would cause a Tiffany clerk to swoon.

In the distance, a group of Vietnamese women, many handsomely dressed, squatted by a row of faucets

with pans and washboards washing clothes.

In Washington, D.C., where several hundred Vietnamese refugees have already settled, a mother reports her children didn't like pork chops and tomato sauce, but that two weeks later, "they already liked hamburgers and hot dogs."

"They're strong because they're soft," said Michael Novak, an East Coast specialist in ethnic problems. "They know how to roll with the punches."

Other experts note that the Vietnamese are a happy people—courtous and polite to a fault by Western standards. "It is impossible to be around the Vietnamese for more than a few minutes without coming to love them," comments Dr. Anders

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Continued from First Page

Sweetland, a Los Angeles psychologist who spent several years in Vietnam with the Rand Corp.

Many marines at Camp Pendleton already have discovered this—some to their surprise. It is a familiar sight to see them playing frisbee or ball with the Vietnamese children or just swinging them around by the arms free-style. A mess attendant had a 10-year-old Vietnamese side-kick who helped him with trays and with whom he joked.

"These are the first foreign people I have ever seen, and I can't get over it," said Marine Cpl. John Martz, a 20-year-old farm boy fresh off the plains of Kansas. "It's the children. They never cry. They're fantastic—so happy and polite. The people are courteous, kind and neat. And many speak English!"

At the same time, many predictions are dour.

"I don't think it will work out," said Dr. John Champlin, a Napa Valley psychiatrist who is married to a Vietnamese woman. "Inevitably everyone will have some sort of emotional crisis—probably within six months to a year. And within 10 years at least half will have tried to go back.

"Vietnamese culture is quite different from ours," he explained. "The family—the extended family—is extremely strong. As time goes on, separation from these basic ties will be harder to bear."

Others note that while most refugees from Saigon seem extremely westernized, this acculturation took place on home turf and was only skin-deep. In the United States itself, they feel, the Vietnamese will experience severe culture shock.

And along with "culture shock," there will also be "status shock"—going from being a member of a well-to-do majority to being a minority member. And especially in America. Martin Luther King spoke of the pain of seeing "clouds of inferiority" developing in his daughter's eyes.

Then there is the question of just how well the Vietnamese refugees can appreciate the realities of American life.

A surprising number of the professional and technically trained refugees at Camp Pendleton—the 107 doctors, 10

dentists, 90 pharmacists, 24 lawyers, 30 journalists and 11 librarians—have studied or visited in the United States, not once but several times.

Still, a Vietnamese woman doctor—during a Camp Pendleton dinner consisting of soup, macaroni, green beans, salad, Oreo cookies and tea—could speak of practicing medicine again in this country "in a few months."

Experts guess it might easily be years—if ever—before refugee doctors will be able to pass local and state examinations and meet other requirements for the private practice of medicine in this country. And finding jobs in the other categories may be even tougher.

Refugee reaction to their new home at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida is a further case in point.

Many thanked everyone in sight, others seemed stunned, the children ran out to play, and many rushed to call waiting friends and relatives. But, according to news reports, "some of the refugees took one look at the military-style camp, its portable chemical toilets and the tuna salad sandwiches on the mess menu and sat down in disgust. 'They didn't,' said one disgruntled businessman, 'come to America to live like monkeys in a forest.'"

The Vietnamese refugees are already, in many instances, confronting the blunt facts of American life and meeting them well.

A young Vietnamese woman married to an American rushed from California to meet him two weeks ago in Bangor, Me., with two small children immaculately dressed. One was his (he had left when she was 8½ months pregnant) and the other was her dead sister's. He met her at the airport with his new American wife and told her to return to California—which she did. Never was there any explanation of why he had continued to write her all the time.

"I don't want to make trouble," she said later. "I just want him to pay expenses for his child." She has consulted a lawyer.

So despite Mrs. Ford's optimistic hope for "some sunshine" in their lives, and the many ways individuals and social agencies are rallying with help, it is possible the newly arrived Vietnamese may well be in for more

clouds, even storms. And if not right away, then in the future.

For some Vietnamese, these have already arrived.

At Camp Pendleton a Vietnamese refugee who is a psychiatrist is now available for consultation on any "emotional" problems. Dr. J. J. Gunning, a Camp Pendleton hospital internist, and some Navy psychiatric colleagues of his, decided to sponsor the psychiatrist's services after a routine survey last week of refugee morale.

(Psychiatrists, by the way, are few and far between in Vietnam. Certainly some Vietnamese, like the Americans, found that the pressures and horrors of the war led to a personal "breaking point." But most "disturbed" persons were kept at home and treated by the equivalent of what Westerners would call "community therapy,"—a rather new concept in this country but an ancient one in Vietnam.)

"Of course, we won't know what the problems are until the people start coming in," Gunning said. "Right now, their mental health is remarkable good, their hopes and spirits excellent.

"Some people, of course, are more anxious than others. I am loathe to use the term 'mental illness.' Whatever problem exists are more like 'normal illness.' But if these people are kept too long in the camps, this may change. They are frustrated—but this is plausible. I get frustrated too when I can't do what I want."

(There was also confusion, endless confusion, some of it
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caused by the fact that there are only 20 or so family names in the Vietnamese language. For days—maybe longer—American clerks found it next to impossible to alphabetize the names of people in the tent cities. At least 10 Vietnamese turned up with the same name. Finally in despair—who knows whether it was the Americans or Vietnamese—someone put up cardboard plaques on the tents, identifying in rough letters the occupants.)

But frustration is too mild a word to describe what Dr. Hoang Van Duc, 50, a refugee Vietnamese physician at Camp Pendleton, was discussing with a reporter last week.

"There is much despair here," he said. "They are anxious about everything. They are anxious about their status, about jobs and about losing their identities."

Some, he said, are so desperately homesick and worried about an uncertain future, they may try suicide. "We must devise some form of psychotherapy," he said. "They must accept reality."

A few days later, he was unwilling to discuss the matter further, feeling he had already drawn too much attention to it.

When camp officials invited refugees to indicate whether they wanted to return to Vietnam, there were not many takers. But that immediate reaction may be deceptive.

For a growing number of refugees may be coming to believe that the loss of their families and loved ones is too high a price to pay for freedom—particularly since a Communist "bloodbath" failed to materialize.

A young Vietnamese journalist who worked for an American newspaper in Saigon is an example. He describes himself as "lonely and ashamed"—while some others in his tent call him "crazy" and a "Communist."

He says he is ashamed of the profiteers, the corrupt Vietnam government officials and the generals who brought about the fall of Saigon—some of whom are in the camp.

"I don't care if I am a marked man—I want to go home," he said. "But I can't tell them that here—I might be isolated, for months, maybe years. I will go to New York, then the U.N. and give myself up there."

In almost all cases, fear of being killed or tortured by the Communists is mentioned by the refugees as the overriding reason for their leaving Vietnam. And the decision to leave was usually made in mere minutes or at the most, hours—and in panic.

A surgeon, who asked that his name not be used, had performed an operation that morning and left the country two hours later. It was a particularly difficult decision for him to make since originally he was from North Vietnam and had not seen his family in 21 years.

(Many of the South Vietnamese—especially of Catholic origin, were from the north. They chose to leave the north in 1954 when the country was divided into two sections, thereby, they feel, incurring the undying enmity of Hanoi.)

The doctor had heard, he said—as had many others in the camp—that those who had left the north would be forced to walk back home. This was said to have happened to other Vietnamese of northern origin when the Communists took over the central area of Vietnam a few months ago.

"That was shown to be an unfounded rumor," says Tran Tung Nhu, a nonrefugee Vietnamese-born, Berkeley-educated anthropologist who has many relatives and

friends in Camp Pendleton. She has lived most of her life in the United States and Europe and is cofounder with her American husband, Thomas Miller, of the "International Children's Fund."

This organization seeks to reclaim Vietnamese "orphans"—many of whom, the Millers claim, have parents or a parent or an extended family in Vietnam.

"The Provisional Revolutionary Government has said it will welcome back all those who want to go home," she said. "There is no bloodbath. But these people have grown up on 30 years of horror stories. The Saigon government had posters all over town for years showing the Viet Cong as maniacs, with blood dripping from their fangs about to devour children. What else can they believe?"

"But the real truth is that many—or most—of the Vietnamese in Camp Pendleton had fancy villas and color TVs and many servants and fine food, while 90% of the country was dying and suffering. They can face the idea of living without servants in the United States better than they can face the idea of living without servants in Vietnam. The guilt they feel is so great, they feel they cannot be forgiven. All this is just disguised as fear of communism."

If this is true, it would seem that the guilt of these Vietnamese might match some of our own in a curious fashion. Some observers speak of American conflict and guilt over the war as the real reason why some Americans feel

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dismay at the presence of Vietnamese in this country.

"No other immigrant group has ever arrived under such cloudy circumstances," Champlin noted.

"The American experience in Vietnam polarized the country and aroused a tremendous sense of guilt," noted anthropologist Margaret Mead said. "It attacked us at the very root of our ethical existence."

The biggest problem facing the Vietnamese will be getting used to a society that is totally different from their own. Vietnamese society is based on closeness, affection and the extended family—a family going back in time to one's earliest ancestors. The bones of one's ancestors are, in fact, revered, and many a Vietnamese has fled from bombings carrying nothing but a container of ancestral bones—his most treasured possession.

In such a family, children are enormously important. "They are treated with great affection," said Novak, who spent several months in Vietnam. "They always have people to play with them and care for them."

Vietnamese children are toilet-trained by the time they are three months old, observes Tran Tuong Nhu, through the simple device of not putting them in diapers and placing them on the ground at strategic moments.

The Vietnamese also is essentially a non-Puritan society—which accounts for some of its interesting interactions with the Americans, Novak said.

"American men found the Vietnamese women super attractive because they did not, as a whole, have any sexual hangups—that is to say, they did not see sex as evil. While the Vietnamese women in turn, found American men very exciting in their forwardness but mixed up about sex and other things."

To sum up, they found each other "fascinating," said Novak.

They are also taught as children to recite long epic and narrative poetry. A tradition of scholarship runs deep in Vietnamese culture. Almost all educated Vietnamese are routinely taught a second language—usually English or French.

Formal Vietnamese education, in general, derives from a blend of Confucian, Buddhist and Taoist traditions. The precepts are aimed at the highest ethical and moral goals. From the first day of their schooling 6-year-olds had to recite:

"From birth, man is good by nature."

"Unpolished jade is worthless."

"Without study, man cannot know the principle of things."

The importance of children in Vietnamese culture is a key to a current conflict now going on. Tran Tuong Nhu and her organization maintains that many of the children in the now famous "baby-lift" were not in fact orphans, and that no attempt was made to find their real or extended families. There is a slogan in Vietnam that says, "If your father dies, you have uncles . . . if your mother dies, you have aunts . . ." A class action suit has been filed in San Francisco against agencies who ran the baby-lift.

Psychologist Thomas C. Greening of Los Angeles proposes as a partial solution—for the orphans who stay—that the government set up a fund to make available on request to each orphan:

—Twenty free counseling sessions to help him or her make a decision about being American or Vietnamese.

—Return air fare to Vietnam.

—\$1,000 worth of vouchers for purchasing courses in Vietnamese language and culture, including communism.

—One year's living allowance to get started in Vietnam.

"This way," Greening said, "the orphans will have at least some assistance in self-determination, and we will be somewhat less guilty of trying to impose American culture on them without their consent and without providing alternatives."

As for imposing American culture on them, it is bound to happen and has already begun, of course, in the camps.

At Pendleton the other night, the refugees were watching, with rather constrained amusement—a Bugs Bunny cartoon, presumably a hors d'oeuvre to more adult fare. At Florida's Eglin Air Force Base, they had already graduated to heavier doses of American culture—the James Bond thriller, "Live and Let Die" and "The Way We Were."

Meanwhile, as the host-culture, Americans stand to learn from the refugees—perhaps something about pro-

ducing children who are dutiful, happy, resourceful and full of self-esteem.

Tran Tuong Nhu was amused, for example, at the fifteen day care centers set up at Camp Pendleton. While well-meaning, she felt it indicated a lack of cultural knowledge and sensitivity.

"They don't need day care centers in the camps," she said. "Parents and all the extended family have the time to watch the children, and at a time like this it is what they want to do." There is one extended family at Camp Pendleton with 93 members.

As for their losing their national identity in the great gaping maw of what many see as American alienation and anonymity, it needn't happen—and for many ethnic groups it hasn't. The Vietnamese need not be seduced—if they are not already—by America's tradition of individualism, a value-system quite the opposite of theirs.

The melting pot ideal—the notion that immigrants of

whatever background blend into a giant common experience and emerge in neat homogeneity—is too simplistic. "The real idea," Novak said, "is to find a commonality without destroying diversities."

And that can be done in today's world of high-speed communication without the necessity of Chinatowns or ethnic ghettos. Researchers have found small communities of Yugoslavs and Thais in Los Angeles that nobody ever heard about and that are widely separated from each other.

"It is like the Syrian-Lebanese," Novak said. "There are almost 1,000,000 in America and they hardly have any 'neighborhoods,' yet they retain their identity and retain a network."

The information is pertinent to the Vietnamese. While most of them want to settle where it is warm, and many are finding sponsors where there are already loose networks of Vietnamese, notably in cities like San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

Nick Thorne, a State Department immigration coordinator for the Vietnamese, says "there will be no heavy concentrations of placements, . . . rather a leavening" throughout the country. Presumably, this is so that immigrants will cause no great economic impact or dislocation.

Finally, there are few analogies to be drawn from the

experience of other ethnic groups in the United States — particularly the Japanese or the Chinese. These two groups made their entrance into the United States long ago and under entirely different circumstances. In addition, the Chinese and the Vietnamese are regarded as being unlike in many personal characteristics as well as having certain long-standing enmities.

Racist feelings do still exist, and Dr. Champlin feels the Vietnamese are in for a certain amount of covert prejudice. So does Tran Khanh Tuget, a nonrefugee Vietnamese Stanford graduate student now married to an American.

"They (the refugees) have no idea what American life is like," she says. "The majority will never have a place here . . . I don't believe they will be happy. It will take too long until the Vietnamese is assimilated."

It is still an extreme view, although a news clip from an Eastern paper gives one pause: "Searching for low-and middle-income housing in Northern Virginia, a would-be sponsor remarked, 'When you tell some people you want it for Vietnamese refugees, they start turning funny colors and they say they haven't any rentals.'"

Perhaps as Americans learn more about the Vietnamese experience in Paris, they will have some clues for dealing with the new immigrants here.

Mr. BT



Says . .

It'd be interesting to find out whether thievery declines in Vietnam, where they've begun summarily executing robbers in public.

Take Care Of Our Own

EDITOR:

The letter from Suzy Hopkins made me sick.

All that writing on the Statue of Liberty, well that statue is not going to feed all the Vietnamese. Its our working mans tax dollar who is tax poor now.

We aren't taking care of our hungry and poor in our own country get around, take a good look how the Indians and lots of poor live.

Our Camp Pendleton hospital is overrun with them.

I went out there to see a doctor at one p.m. with a pain in my chest. I waited until 4 and left and came home without seeing a doctor, but the refugees got examined.

I say send them back to their country and feed our hungry and find jobs for the unemployed by the thousands causing crime.

NAME WITHHELD

Oceanside

Medical Treatment Excellent

EDITOR:

The letter from Mrs. Lisa Cropper in Friday's Blade-Tribune complaining about the treatment received at the U.S. Naval Hospital at Camp Pendleton leads me to believe that she has that facility confused with some other installation. I am sure that it is not the one where I have undergone treatment for the past year and a half.

Contrary to the alleged cavalier treatment reported by Mrs. Cropper, my relations with the Naval Medical Facility at Camp Pendleton has been characterized by professional competence and personal courtesy that enhances one's pride in the Naval Medical Services.

I personally cannot find words to express my appreciation for the treatment and individual concern for my welfare that the doctors, nurses, corpsmen and civilian employees have afforded me and my family.

I must admit however, that it has never occurred to me to expect the medical personnel of the hospital to set aside their rules and regulations for my convenience. Except in cases of emergency, I find it no hardship to make an appointment to see a doctor even if the heavy workload at the facility requires a few days delay. It certainly should be obvious, even to a layman, as to why any doctor would refuse to treat a child without a parent being present.

In any event, I would suggest that Mrs. Cropper engage a civilian doctor if she can find one that will treat her children without her presence. As for me, I will continue to utilize the services of the Naval Medical facilities and be grateful for the privilege.

WALLACE HENRY

Oceanside

Appreciation For Support

EDITOR:

In reference to some of the letters that have appeared in The Blade-Tribune regarding the refugees from South Vietnam, to think that some people are concerned with their own situation so deeply that they cannot open their arms and hearts to those far less fortunate, makes me very sad.

I cannot argue for or against the economical reasons for their acceptance or rejection because that is not why the refugees were brought here.

The people who came here from South Vietnam came with a will to resist a way of life they did not wish to lead, as did our parents, grandparents and great grandparents.

Unfortunately those who oppose refugee acceptance to the U.S. share a common ancestry with those very same people. That is an ancestry of immigration. I hope that America is not personal property or a vested interest.

It is peculiar that people who profess to believe in a man named Jesus who loved the poor most of all can be so unaccepting of these homeless people. I only hope that those who truly feel in their hearts that the South Vietnamese are not welcome here can reflect on their own origins.

DENNIS MESSOLINE

Oceanside

Refugee Helpers, Well Done!

EDITOR:

I am sending you these few lines to speak as a retired marine, and an American citizen, and I wish also to speak for a very grateful nation, and to also speak for so very many Vietnamese refugees, relocated at Camp Pendleton.

I know, that so very many American people, were not aware of a great compensation that has taken place with the refugee situation. But to have witnessed the past two weeks, was like absconding a miracle taking place, before your eyes. The long hard hours the United States Marines, were asked to endure, to complete a mission assigned, by the United States government, and the dedication by all the marines, and the civil service workers from both the First Marine Division and the Marine Corps Base was truly a combined effort, to achieve a mission that was extremely ponderous in magnitude.

To the Commanding Officer (General Graham) and his entire staff, who worked in the field many long hard hours are to be highly commended, and for their planning and their logistic plans, it was so very highly efficient and organized.

And to Mr. Touse, His hard working staff and all the personnel from Base Motors who kept those large wheels turning around the clock to support this mission, all I can say, you can be so very proud of a job well done.

And a very special word of praise to two fine gentlemen, Warrant Officers Moody and Petit, who were the hub of the logistical supply point, who worked many long hard hours around the clock to achieve their assigned mission. These two fine gentlemen are not only a great credit to the Marine Corps but also to the government of these United States. Complete dedication and their great knowledge of their given assignment is in keeping with the great tradition of the United States Marine Corps.

And to all you young marines who transformed the hills of Camp Pendleton into those tent cities, with your dedication and many hours of sweat, all I can say, that to many of you, this was your shining hour, and your mission was a complete success. No other unit either military or civilian could have completed this assigned mission, as you young marines so successfully completed.

So, gentlemen, in my behalf and also so very many millions of Americans, we can only say thank you all for an outstanding job extremely well done.

DONALD PLUNKETT

Vista

VIET GENERAL WHO DIDN'T FLEE SAYS U.S. SOLD OUT

SAIGON (UPI)—Brig. Gen. Le Minh Dao, who commanded the defeated South Vietnamese army's 18th Division, says he spurned the chance to flee to the United States before the Communist victory and "I will never again have anything to do with Americans."

Dao also said in an interview that the "Viet Cong exhibit no spirit of vengeance against the soldiers of the government which surrendered to them," on April 30.

Speaking from a crumbling stucco house in a military compound, Dao, 42, said, "it is the Americans who sold out Vietnam. It is the Americans who are responsible for the unbelievable corruption which rotted our country and kept us from building a stable nation."

The general, whose troops fought hard during the last battle on Saigon's perimeter, has 39 medals, all awarded him by the army which collapsed barely a month ago.

"I had a chance to leave," Dao said. "I'm as selfish as the next man. I hesitated three days before turning myself in."

"During those three days I considered three possibilities—an attempt to escape, which I had already vetoed in my own mind; fighting with my troops even though I knew it was a worthless cause, and suicide. But I must confess that pure practicality ruled in the end."

"There would be no one to care for my family of nine children and a wife. I could not earn a living in the United States and I could not bear to leave my country."

Dao, a slim, bouncy man spoke from the military housing quarters assigned to a colonel who had fled in the race of defeat.

His nine children were swarming around him.

"I have no money to buy candy or even food," Dao said. He said one could "scour the bank accounts" and "not find any of my money or of my relatives stashed away."

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
CODE PA
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380

*File
New Arrivals*

CAMP PENDLETON, CA.

REFUGEE CLIPS

4 June 1975

16—The Blade-Tribune

Monday, June 2, 1975

Refugee Phone Installers Busy

By SGT O.C. McBRIDE

CAMP PENDLETON — "It's our mission to keep the communication lines open to the refugee camps," commented Corporal Dawn G. Williams, a member of Telephone Section, Base Communications.

"We installed about 35 telephones each day, which included putting in poles, running phone lines from the poles and many other chores that we've encountered," added Cpl. Williams.

When the first refugees were arriving aboard Camp Pendleton personnel from Base Telephone Section and Base Communications were up on poles and atop buildings installing public address systems and telephones.

"It's not unusual that we do this kind of work," commented Sergeant Olen M. Childers, of Sound Section, Base Communications. "The only difference is we are doing so much of it at one time."

One problem was that materials were short at hand and there wasn't enough to accomplish the mission at first. Now, requisitions have been filled and the work is continuing.

"The Marines in Base Communications are getting plenty of training," stated Sgt. Childers. "Both of the Women Marines who work for me are getting pretty good at pole climbing."

"The Women Marines are taking things right in stride and they don't let the work load really bother them," commented LeRoy Chidester, a civilian employee with Base Telephone Section.

Most of the telephones have been installed and all that has to be done now is maintain them.

"When we are out at the refugee camps and repairs are needed, the office is notified and they radio us," commented Lance Corporal Patricia A. Slyck, a member of Sound Section, Base Communications. "This eliminates us having to make extra trips back to the office to pick up work orders."

"I feel the communication personnel working at the refugee camps are doing a great job," stated Master Sergeant Ken L. Darden, the Base Wire Chief. "I couldn't ask for better quality in their work."

Refugees enjoy generous influx of entertainers

By PATRICIA DIBSIE
TRIBUNE Staff Writer

CAMP PENDLETON — When a notice went up on one of the bulletin boards here that singer Rosemary Clooney would be entertaining not many of the refugees got excited.

"Is she good?" the Vietnamese asked the Americans. Few had heard of the popular vocalist.

It was obvious they were pleased when Miss Clooney entertained at a YMCA amphitheater last night in Camp 4.

Miss Clooney was scheduled to appear at the staff noncommissioned officers' club and she asked whether she could do a show for the refugees earlier the same day.

"We were really pleased to accept her offer," said Mrs. Janet Walton, coordinator for entertainment here. "When we first decided to put on shows for these people we thought only local entertainers would volunteer their services. But, happily, we were in for a big surprise."

Mrs. Walton wouldn't say who else had made tentative agreements to appear but she did say it was an impressive list of names.

"The refugees aren't impressed by a name — it's what the entertainer can do that brings smiles, applause and laughs," she said.

"These people really respond in large numbers to all of the shows we have put on," Mrs. Walton said.

The YMCA was asked by the State Department to set up a headquarters at this Marine Corps base and to take charge of entertainment and recreation for the refugees.

"In the two weeks we've been here this project has mushroomed into a much larger job than we first expected," Mrs. Walton said. "We have recreational activities going on for the adults and children all day long."

The Americans have introduced many of the Vietnamese children to two of America's favorite pastimes — baseball and softball. "They love it," Bruce Goldstein, a YMCA volunteer, said.

Goldstein volunteered his services in the beginning and has been spending weekends teaching the youngsters how to play softball. "It's a good feeling to see them laughing and running around instead of just moping around the camp with nothing to do," he said.

YMCA volunteers have put in swing sets for the smaller children, badminton nets, table tennis sets, volleyball nets and a tennis court. "Table tennis is by far one of their favorite pastimes," he said, "that and soccer."

One of the first troupes of entertainers to come here was a rock group, the Gathering. It, too, had been signed for a job at the NCO club and came early to do a show for the refugees.

"They loved that music so much I didn't think they were going to let the band leave," said Goldstein. "Bands really make a hit with these people."

Some were reluctant to dance, one American entertainer said, "but then the little children started dancing and soon some of the girls were asking us to dance."

Language barriers aren't much of a problem, according to Pendleton officials. More than 75 per cent of the refugees speak or understand some English.

"Some Vietnamese entertainers have asked us if they could do a show for their people and that was an unexpected surprise," Mrs. Walton said.

Many refugees have volunteered their time to help coordinate activities. "Everyone seems to be having a good time — and that's why we're here," she said.

Marie Hitchcock, familiar to many San Diego children as "the puppet lady," will perform shows all day tomorrow in the eight camps.

Next month, Beau Bridges will bring a variety show to the YMCA amphitheater at Camp 4 that will feature both American and Vietnamese entertainers.

"We have been swamped with calls from people offering to come up and entertain these people," Mrs. Walton said. "It's obvious that there are many Americans who want to bring a smile to these people."

"I think that those of us who are volunteering are getting as much fun and pleasure out of this as the refugees are," Goldstein said. "It just makes you feel good."



CROWD PLEASER — Vocalist Rosemary Clooney entertains refugees at Camp Pendleton yesterday in one of the amphitheaters sponsored by the

YMCA. Last night she appeared at the NCO Club.
— Photo by Joe Flynn, Evening Tribune Staff
Photographer

Real Hardship Needed

EDITOR:

It's too bad that along with the all time policy of the United States of accepting refugees from all over this world there is this narrow-minded attitude towards them from certain individuals among us.

Also too bad they weren't on a refugee ship docking here with some of their relatives when they arrived as newcomers. Real hardship is what they need, and lack.

NAME WITHHELD
Carlsbad

Take Care Of Us First

EDITOR

In response to "How Can They Be so Cruel?"

You are ashamed of our fellow Americans for thinking bad about the Vietnamese. Well, let me tell you — you have not much to gripe about.

I'm ashamed of our fellow Americans who are doing bad. I'm speaking of our fellow American who draws an honest salary from America and eats three meals per day grown by Americans, yet this same American will raid fields daily and take our Mexican next door neighbors that live in trees and sleep on the ground in order to reap our harvest that is impossible to get an American to do.

This same American will destroy the simple necessities the Mexican thrives on but will help pay the millions per day it is costing us to feed the Vietnamese. In fact he will take the men that are bathing with no clothes back to Mexico. Can he eat with a clear conscience? Does he feel a bigger American by his rotten deed?

What kind of test does it require to pass to be an immigration officer anyway? One that likes to destroy personal property, treat human beings as animals?

My husband put 24 years in the Navy for our Country and not one time can I make one purchase without showing proof that I am entitled to do so.

Yet I can go to our camps and wait for the Vietnamese to get taken care of and then and only then will I be taken care of.

My husband hasn't forgotten that President Roosevelt took 15 per cent cut from the American servicemen to help feed the poor in America with a promise that it would be repaid with interest.

To this date not one penny has been paid back, yet this same government can feed these Vietnamese people and open up jobs for them and have people like you feeling sorry for them.

I say "Stand up Americans and take care of Americans first? Let Old Glory wave justly and proud for we are good Americans. Let's take care of our orphans, senior citizens, pay our honest debts then we can stand straight and tall and be what America really is all about.

MRS. CLARA SHULL
Oceanside

Irish Accomplishments Cited

EDITOR:

One of our recent letters to the editor writers has asked "What military and noble man fleeing to America to save their lives might have done to promote good in this country. His searches through history books and encyclopedias haven't revealed anything to him, so far." He claims that most of your letter writers are making a mistake about not only the Vietnamese refugees but also about Blacks, Chicanos, Irish and Polish.

In my recent studies of Irish accomplishments I have noticed there have been Irish in the U.S. since the days of the earliest colonies. There is a William of Galway on the crew list of Christopher Columbus. One of the earliest histories of the original colony in Virginia was written in Gaelic, the Irish language, by Francis Maguire, dated 1609. A Thomas Dongan of Ireland was Governor of New York when it was still a province.

The most prominent Irish-Catholic family of the colonial period were the Carrolls of Maryland. The first Carroll arrived in 1688 and helped found the colony of Maryland, Charles Carroll, his descendant, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, later a U.S. Senator. Daniel Carroll, his cousin, was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention. John Carroll, another cousin, was the first Catholic Bishop of the U.S.

Four signers of the Declaration of Independence were born in Ireland. There were so many Irish in George Washington's army that he chose to show his own gratitude on St. Patrick's Day — March 17, 1776 — by making the password for the day for the entire Continental Army "St. Patrick."

The Blacks and Chicanos also have members in history who have been honorable leaders and in several fields of endeavor.

These people are indeed noted even in our own history books, and encyclopedias. I have read of the accomplishments of these people.

Why hasn't our recent letter writer who is now seemingly rolling them all up together with the Vietnamese refugee problem. Do give these unfortunate people a chance to get started in America.

NAME WITHHELD
Carlsbad

BLADE TRIBUNE

SECTION 1

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Return Is Understandable

EDITOR:

In regards to the criticism of some of the refugees from South Vietnam who have said they wish to go back, it is understandable, for there are many who were separated from their loved ones, and even wives, and their children are still in Vietnam while the father may be here.

Most all of the refugees have some relations still in Vietnam, and there is fear that lives are, or many be threatened to force refugees to return to their homeland. Most would prefer to return if it wasn't for the Communists controlling their country.

You can be sure that those who wish to return are influenced by fear, or loneliness, and not because they are unhappy with us or their treatment.

DICK GILBERT
Carlsbad

Welcoming The Refugees

EDITOR:

I am writing this letter just to "Welcome Refugees." I am proud of the President for what he has done. He has helped our neighbor.

I know the people from our country disagree, but I don't. They have suffered alot.

We should help them with their needs. We should make them feel safe as we all are. You all don't know how it is for these people.

They were all running, afraid, and didn't have a place to stay. But now that they are here, they are happy and not afraid. Please understand. Thank you.

FRANCES SALAZAR
Oceanside

My wife and I wanted to sponsor a Vietnamese refugee but so far the experience has been one long frustration. The Red Cross and State Department keep bouncing me back and forth. Each says the other is responsible for applications. I decided to call you and see if you could stop the fast shuffle. — J.G., Leucadia.

Follow this bouncing ball to the Interagency Refugee Task Force toll-free number, 800-368-1180. Apparently, when you called that number, the operator misunderstood. We talked to an operator there who offered to explain the procedure to you. Since the calls have dwindled from about 1,000 to about 400 a day, the operators are less rushed, and able to give a more detailed explanation.

SPONSORSHIP ISN'T A SNAP

If you're interested in sponsoring a Vietnamese refugee, here's how it works. When you call the Interagency Refugee Task Force toll-free number, an operator takes your name, address and some background information. Then she finds out what kind of refugee you're looking for (a family, an individual, what qualifications, etc.). That information goes through the agency's computers, which have names and background on the refugees. Vietnamese and others in this country who are looking for missing family members get first priority. Then come persons who wish to sponsor a specific individual or family, then those with a general request. The computer should be able to come up with several names of refugees in camps near you. That list and your name and background go to an agency that is handling refugee sponsorship procedures near the camp. That agency contacts you and determines whether you have the income and sincerity to sponsor a refugee. If they conclude you do, the agency tries to match you with a refugee from the computer list. Because there are so many variables involved, we cannot advise readers how long it would take to become a sponsor who is actually helping a refugee.

Is the clothing collected for the Vietnamese refugees being distributed? I heard it isn't because it costs so much to clean it. — L.R., San Diego.

What you heard is partially true. Much of the donated clothing is dirty and needs mending, a spokesman for the local Red Cross says. That adds up to a lot of volunteer hours and money. All donated clothing is separated into usable items and rags. A lot ends up in the rag pile. The usable clothes, if necessary, are cleaned and mended, then sorted by size and distributed to the refugees. Some people have donated corset covers, single gloves and evening gowns. What refugees really need is clean clothing in small sizes. If you'd like to donate, put it in a bag marked with a "V" and drop it in a Salvation Army box. Or, collect a bundle and call the Salvation Army, which will pick it up. The Salvation Army also says it needs volunteers to help sort what already has been donated.

Opinions On Aliens, Refugees

EDITOR:

I am a concerned citizen of the United States of America and would like to voice my opinion on two issues.

First:

The way the Mexican aliens are treated! They go into a store, or the movies or even church, then the immigration go in these places and sometimes just wait on the outside and grab them as they come out. The immigration officers push and shove them and in some instances kick them.

The other day my daughters and I saw them pick up three Mexican aliens, two men and one woman. They had a van full of Mexican aliens, and they shoved that poor girl in the van while handcuffed to one of the men. This really upset my children to see people treated that way.

I could understand it a little better if they had robbed a bank, but as it is, I think it is awful. All they want to do is make a living and a poor one at that. As far as them taking good jobs four our people is a bunch of bull. I have a 19 year old nephew and I know for a fact that he wouldn't work out in those fields picking strawberries, tomatoes, digging potatoes, etc., for a meer \$1.40 an hour and neither would you or I. I know we wouldn't for even \$3 an hour. Go ahead and stop them from coming across the border and all fruit and vegetable prices will go sky high and right now they are high enough.

Also, if they did want to complain about the way they are treated, who, just who could they turn to? they come up to the United States of America, the home of the brave and the free and they are treated like dogs, and even dogs get better treatment than they do. Also, what about when the aliens who are picked up in the morning, sit in the van or car, then are transferred to the bus, go here and there, are they fed? No they aren't. Even dogs are fed once a day.

I know for a fact that every work day, thousands of Canadians are coming from Winsor, Ontario, Canada, to Detroit, Michigan and other parts of the United States to their jobs, good ones, high paying ones. Why isn't anyone objecting to this? My second issue is:

How can the United States even think of bringing Vietnamese people here, 70,000 and more? How many are going to take good jobs? How many are going to go on Welfare? How many homes are you going to build or them and who is going to pay for it? Has the Immigration Department checked all 70,000 people? Has the Department of Public Health checked all 70,000 people? How many are communists?

Also, how about all our prejudiced people, which I would say deep down inside there are about 85 per cent, the ones that don't like the Blacks, Mexicans or Indians because of their culture?

I think the government has bitten off a little more than it can chew! You say all the Vietnamese won't stay in California, what did you say when the Cubans were coming to Florida?

I think we should help our neighboring countries before we help the people across the seas.

KAREN VAN KEUREN

Vista

Against Refugee Influx

EDITOR:

I don't think we should bring the Vietnamese here to our country.

We don't have enough food, clothing, and places for them. Yet we try to find these thing for them but we are forgetting about our own people in our country. The people on Welfare, in the slums. We're not helping our own yet were helping someone else's people from other countries.

I have nothing against the Vietnamese. But I don't think it's fair to the people in our country, for us to help someone else but not them.

I think we should help our people first.

YVONNE TALLIS
Oceanside

Equality For Everybody?

EDITOR:

A couple of weeks ago, I had to go to the Navy hospital, because I had an infection, under my foot. To be exact, on the ball of my left foot. I was throbbing like mad and a knot had formed on my leg.

I went to emergency, the nurse sent me to medical, without looking at the foot, medical had a nurse look at my foot and told me that I'd have to go to surgery, but they only had one doctor on duty, so I'd have to wait for two or three hours. But, if I didn't want to wait, I could come back in the morning and they could reschedule me. I waited in the lobby for about an hour. My foot was throbbing like mad, and the pain was way out.

While I was waiting, two ladies were talking about their recent operations they had at this Navy hospital. One had a cancer operation on her leg and said she had a real nice doctor and a nice room with another patient.

Then I noticed the startled look on her face and listened with interest while this other lady was telling her that she had a private room, because her husband was on the hospital staff and she had plastic surgery done on her nose. She had a very beautiful nose, but she said before plastic surgery it was a hook nose.

I couldn't believe what I was hearing because, I had just picked up a hospital bulletin on the next chair. One of the questions on this was "Are the officers wives or staff members' families treated any different than dependent families?" The answer under that was, "No, everyone was treated equal."

By this time my pain was too much, so I left and went to a private doctor. Before I left I looked at my record book. The nurse wrote, "Sore at bottom of foot, not draining."

When I had the private doctor look at my foot, he opened it up and drained the sore and gave me a double dose of antibiotics.

The infection had already started to spread through my body so all they could do was pray and cross their fingers.

I'm thankful for private doctors and am thankful to be alive, but I'm still very weak and still have a lot of pain in my foot and leg.

I'm sure grateful to my private doctor not only does he remind me of the doctor we had when I lived on a farm in a small town, but believe it or not, this doctor makes house calls. All I can say is thank God there are doctors who treat patients like humans.

Anyway, I think that the Navy hospital at Camp Pendleton should be investigated.

I could have lost my foot, leg or my life, because I couldn't get a doctor to even look at the foot, yet one of the staff members' wives could sit in the lobby and brag about a nose job and her private room.

Kinda weird when you hear all this, but the hospital bulletin said we're all treated alike.

I just wonder, is the man in charge aware of this?

ZOE A. ADLER
Oceanside

Refugee 'Warning' Criticized

EDITOR:

The recent letter "warning" us that there may be violent reaction to the refugees from Vietnam points up an old, radical view held for a long time in this country.

But, only by the minority. They say "if you don't like a situation take care of it yourself by violence, regardless of who it may hurt, including yourself."

The majority of the Vietnam Marines favor helping the refugees. Most of these refugees are children, or families who deserve all the help they can get. The elderly and the church ministers too.

If this letter writer — who describes his view of a "back lash" towards the refugees from some resentful Vietnam veteran of the war — really knows of such a person ready to do evil he should see to it that this party is removed from Camp Pendleton.

He should show his concern by making a true effort to expose such a danger to the Camp Pendleton authorities, rather than write his letter to the general public.

Send these vengeful, hate-filled veterans away to the vacant facilities the letter writer mentions are available. If such persons (be they veterans or plain civilians), will not recognize that it was a minority who committed violence against their own people in Vietnam they should then be watched over carefully or removed from the vicinity of these refugees.

My family has been inconvenienced, too, with the influx of the refugees, as my husband works on heavy equipment at Camp Pendleton. He has gone without sleep several times lately and had to work long hours. However, it is something which needs doing to help humanity — it is a job that needs immediate attention.

MRS. JANE GILBERT
Carlsbad

Refugees 'Not Right'

EDITOR:

I would like to express my opinion on the refugees on Camp Pendleton. I don't think it is right to have them here. They take up to much room and some of them have to have things their way.

Suppose we were over there, they probably wouldn't help us after we had been in war so why should they be over here eating our food and wearing our clothes and getting the jobs that so many people have been waiting for. It's not fair to the other people and not fair to us.

NAME WITHHELD
Oceanside

U.S. Needs Help More

EDITOR:

I am writing about the refugees. I think that the refugees shouldn't come over to Camp Pendleton because the United States is better off without them.

Now that they are in Camp Pendleton, they are using so much money. Why can't the government use that money for the kids and adults that need help here in the United States.

The little ones from Vietnam are getting adopted faster than the kids over here in the United States. The kids over here have lived most of their lives in an orphanage and they haven't been adopted. I think that the people of the United States should think about their country first, then afterwards think about the other country. The U.S. needs more help to fix up this country. They should use the money for orphanages and other things more important.

CHARLENE FORTON
Oceanside

Refugee sponsorship falls; U.S. resettlement to drag on

WASHINGTON (AP) — Offers from prospective sponsors of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees have dropped sharply, and some officials believe it may be a year or more before resettlement of the refugees is complete.

Resettlement officials say a reported delay caused by security checks of the refugees is slowing the pace of relocation while the decline in the number of sponsors poses more delays in the future.

These officials say the delay is likely to keep thousands of refugees on Guam through the summer typhoon season and could force the opening of more refugee camps on the U.S. mainland.

"The way things are going now, we're still going to have people in the camps more than a year from now," Leon O. Marion, director of an umbrella organization of private

refugee agencies, said Thursday.

Marion and State Department officials agree the most recent logjam has been a congressional requirement for extensive security checks of refugees before they move on to new lives in U.S. communities.

So far, 22,382 refugees have been resettled. Most of them had relatives in this country or had established contacts with willing American sponsors before leaving home. Of the remaining 107,941 refugees, there are 24,205 at Fort Chaffee, Ark., 16,879 at Camp Pendleton, 4,668 at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, 520 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., and another 61,669 on bases in the Pacific Ocean, mostly living under tents on Guam.

Refugees are not permitted to leave the four mainland camps until an American citizen, acting as a sponsor, provides assurances that the refugee

will have a place to live and some assurance of a job.

Norman Sweet, the senior U.S. civilian in charge of the refugee program on Guam, said Thursday the length of time the island was to remain as a refugee center has now stretched to August, compared to the original estimate of mid-June.

During the summer on Guam, there are threats of typhoons, of heavy rains and tropical heat.

"The weather and impermanence of sanitary facilities are proving to be worries we had not expected," Sweet said. "These people should be processed out of here as soon as possible and are not being for what I think are essentially political reasons in the United States."

U.S. officials privately acknowledge that congressional insistence on a painstaking screening for

known criminals or persons with Viet Cong or Communist affiliations has slowed the relocation process.

Among thousands of names checked so far, only about 30 have shown up with negative notations among records of the FBI, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon, and other agencies.

Eleanor Green, a spokesman for the intergovernmental task force on refugees in Washington, insisted that the security checks have ceased to be a problem. She said more than 800 Vietnamese flew to their new homes from U.S. camps on both Tuesday and Wednesday.

Marion, director of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service, disputed her overall assessment and said there are still thousands of refugees waiting in the camps for security checks before they can join their American sponsors.

DATE: 30 MAY 75

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SECT A, PAGE

ESCONDIDO TIMES ADVOCATE

Refugee Baby Gets U.S. Name

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (UPI) — Doung Thi Tuyet Long insisted on having an American name for her newborn son and looked over a long list of American first names. The problem was, she had trouble pronouncing them.

The woman, who speaks a little English, talked Thursday to an American volunteer at the Vietnamese refugee relocation center here. She asked the volunteer her husband's name, which is T.Sgt. Gary Burnett.

After hearing his first name, she successfully pronounced it a number of times and decided to name her child Gary.

War Refugees Return Home

BANGKOK (UPI) —
Eighty-seven Cambodian
war refugees quartered at
an American base in
Thailand returned to their
homeland on Friday at their
own request.

2,600 more refugees leave Guam for U.S.

AGANA, Guam (UPI) — The largest number of Vietnamese refugees in more than a month to leave in a single day left Guam for the continental United States yesterday.

More than 2,600 refugees flew from the Pacific island on 10 planes.

A Navy spokesman said the civilian flights took out the largest number of refugees since the latter part of April, when 3,500 Vietnamese a day were leaving.

The exodus dropped as the processing centers in the United States filled, and in one day in May no refugees left. On another only 135 departed.

The spokesman said by Saturday, nearly 11,000 will have been flown out of Guam to the mainland with 2,643 expected to leave Friday.

He said by June 10 the total refugee population will be about 25,000, but the departures would probably slow down as the new Indiantown Gap, Pa., camp filled.

Officials say there are

40,764 refugees on Guam.

More than 6,000 from Subic Bay in the Philippines started arriving Saturday at the rate of about 250 a day, but the spokesman said the two largest camps, Orote Tent City and Camp Asan, will easily accommodate them.

At Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., more than 25 per cent of all Vietnamese refugees have sponsors and security clearances, but they refuse to leave because of what one official calls "a great fear of the unknown."

Figures released yesterday show that 1,187 of the 5,621 who have checked in at Eglin are eligible to leave but will not. Another 961 refugees have left after receiving the sponsors and security clearance.

"There's a great fear of the unknown among the refugees," said Hugh McCloone, director of the Catholic Relief Services Bureau. "They fear how they'll be received and how they'll succeed once they get out the door."

One refugee who asked not to be identified said he did not want to leave because of uncertain feelings about his sponsor and the fear "something will go wrong."

"We're afraid to take the final step," he said. "We don't really know our sponsors and we don't know whether they will be responsible for us. We don't know whether they will really help us for months, or even years if necessary."

Les Gottlieb, deputy chief of the refugee center, said there have been three cases of refugees who left the camp recently but returned several days later, saying they didn't like their sponsors or weren't ready to face the outside world.

One case was that of a refugee girl who left camp with her sponsor to settle in a Florida panhandle town. She returned to the camp because of an incident which seemed to increase the refugees' fear of life beyond the gates of this huge Air Force base.

"She showed up at the main gate in the dead of night only a couple of days after leaving camp," Gottlieb said.

He declined to go into detail about the incident which brought her back other than to say she broke into tears when she tried to explain to officials what had happened.

Refugees Refusing To Leave

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COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
CODE PA
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380

CAMP PENDLETON, CA.

REFUGEE CLIPS

5 June 1975

File
New
Arrivals

Tuesday, June 3, 1975

THE SAN DIEGO UNION A-5

12,163 CLEARED FROM PENDLETON**More Refugees Slated To Arrive**

By HOMER CLANCE
Staff Writer
The San Diego Union

CAMP PENDLETON — The "no vacancy" sign has been removed from "Little Saigon" here and Vietnam refugees again are filling the pipeline to this relocation center.

Since this center for South Vietnamese refugees opened April 29, a total of 27,621 men, women and children have arrived at this Marine base.

Through yesterday, 12,163 refugees had departed the base after receiving a full-scale security clearance and certification of their sponsors.

The population yesterday stood at 15,458, with an additional 310 due before midnight, Lt. Col. Art Brill, public affairs officer, reported.

Brill said the earliest refugees were dependents of U.S. citizens, or already had security clearance and jobs awaiting them. Many had worked for U.S. government agencies and contractors in Vietnam when the Viet Cong took over, he explained.

A bottleneck early last month in the security clearance procedures slowed refugee processing and the camp fast exceeded its 18,100 capacity.

Brill said it took a minimum of 10 days to obtain a

full security clearance from five separate government agencies in Washington only 15 days ago.

Now, however, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has a computer on the base tied into the various agencies in Washington, he said.

Instead of processing five separate pieces of paper, only one paper is processed, and that speeds through the computer.

The security clearances, originally started when the refugees reached this relocation base, now are begun in Guam, where more than 40,000 refugees are awaiting flights to the U.S.

Brill said on Sunday, 650 refugees departed the base, while 419 new arrivals registered in.

"We are moving these people out in great numbers — the pipeline is really working," Brill added.

He estimated another 1,000 refugees would arrive here today.

Officials are concerned about the 8,611 refugees who now have security clearance but no sponsors, Brill added.

"As long as there are refugees who have to be placed with a sponsor, it will be our goal to find an individual, large group, charitable or church organization, or a corporation to sponsor them," he said.

Refugee Chinese Discovered

By RUBY SEXTON
Staff Writer
The San Diego Union

CAMP PENDLETON — When announcements in Vietnamese blare out over the loudspeakers at Camp Pendleton, not all the residents of the camp's refugee sections can follow their meaning.

For more than 1,000 persons at the refugee center, the native language is Cantonese or Mandarin. They are Chinese or persons of Chinese ancestry who were living and working in Saigon, when the South Vietnamese government fell.

A minister working with this group says they feel that they are being overlooked at the camp. A camp spokesman said there are no official estimates on the number of Chinese among the evacuees.

Beverly Yip, administrative coordinator of the Union of Pan Asian Communities here, said the presence of the Chinese refugees was discovered only because someone who understood Cantonese overheard a group talking in the dialect.

LIST SOUGHT

The Rev. Peter Kung of San Diego's First Southern Baptist Chinese Mission said he has asked some of the Chinese living in the tents and Quonset huts of the various camp areas to help him compile a list of all the Chinese residents.

He also obtained permission from camp officials for a Chinese-language announcement asking the Chinese among the 18,000 refugees there at that time to meet with him.

More than 500 responded. And they assured him there were many more who probably missed the announcement because they were visiting in other areas or standing in long meal lines.

The Southern Baptist Convention is conducting an educational and orientation program in the camp and also is helping with sponsorship arrangements.

LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Kathy Tsung of the Chinese Social Service Center in San Diego is helping with a Chinese language orientation program, which is offered on Fridays and Saturdays. Assisting are volunteers from the center, from Chinese churches in San Diego and Los Angeles and from among the refugees. Very few of the Chinese at the Camp Pendleton center have sponsors, the minister said. Government officials have said no refugees will be allowed to leave until they have individuals or groups willing to accept responsibility for sponsoring them. To help in the search for sponsors, the Rev. Mr. Kung is sending the names and information about the Chinese refugees to all the Chinese churches he can identify, of whatever denomination, in the United States and Canada. He also met in Los Angeles with Chang Ping-nan, consul general from the Nationalist Chinese government, and Chinese community leaders to describe the refugees' plight and see what can be done to aid them.

'PSYCHOLOGICAL LIMBO'

Vietnamese Psychiatrist Tells Of Problems Ahead

By DONALD H. HARRISON, Staff Writer
The San Diego Union

CAMP PENDLETON — A former South Vietnamese minister of health says refugees here are living in a psychological limbo and have not yet had to face reality.

"We are living now in a Vietnamese village, not like anything else in the United States," Tran Minh Tung added in an interview. "We have our families, our neighbors here . . . it is very unreal."

Tung, a psychiatrist, was permitted to open a mental health clinic for refugees two days ago. He said only about a half dozen people visited him in the first two days, but he expected more would come after the service is announced by camp officials.

The psychiatrist served as minister of health between 1969 and 1974 and has made several visits to the United States.

For his fellow refugees, Tung said, "there will be difficulties even though they are very industrious. They are not used to the pace of U.S. society, to what you call the 'rat race.'"

"I think they will have to work much harder in the United States and also added just to a feeling of isolation. We are used to living with big families. That has its problems, but it does give Vietnamese emotional support. Here we will not be able to afford big houses, and, as a consequence, many of the families will have to split up."

The possibility of the extended family, in which brothers, sisters and their children all live together, could be a problem for the refugees, especially since they are on unfamiliar soil, Tung said.

Tung said, like many Vietnamese doctors, he has a dual role in the camp: Ministering to his people and helping American doctors do likewise.

The few patients he has treated psychiatrically, Tung said, have been troubled more by family problems than by fears of adjusting to life in the United States.

Camp Pendleton residents, in Tung's estimate, largely are middle class Vietnamese who have been exposed to American ways.

Nguyen Van Ngai, former minister of rural development, also is at Camp Pendleton. He says he is skeptical about plans to settle Vietnamese in agricultural communities or Israeli-style kibbutzim as former South Vietnamese Premier Nguyen Cao Ky has suggested.

Pendleton Refugees Facing

(Editor's Note: The following dispatch was written by a long-time UPI correspondent in South Vietnam who left the country before the Communists came to power there April 30. He has been in refugee camps on Guam and in the continental United States.)

CAMP PENDLETON (UPI) — The newest Americans wonder what is beyond the brush covered coastal hills of Southern California.

The 18,000 Vietnamese refugees at this Marine base seem healthier and more confident than when they arrived three

weeks ago. But the end of their road to freedom is not yet in sight.

The escape from South Vietnam was the biggest step. Now they are facing harsh realities that seem more difficult than they could have imagined. Many refugees dread the moment they will step out of camp.

THEY HAVE BEEN walled off by the hills from real American society. They know little about their new land and what they will do in it.

"I would like that all of us could go to downtown Los

Angeles for a couple of days just to see for ourselves and decide which of our abilities would be most welcome," one refugee, Tran Trung Thu, 39, said in halting English.

About 8,200 refugees have been released from this camp so far. But most of them were Americans evacuated from Saigon and their dependents, plus a few refugees who had jobs with U.S. companies or were sponsored by American agencies.

Most of those still in camp, now

Realities

filled to capacity, left behind a father or mother or another close relative. They also left their homes and their jobs, and often have nothing more than what they could carry. After nearly a month in the United States, the painful memories linger.

THEY FIND life in America not like they had expected, especially at this military base. Few were prepared for the many changes, even in areas as basic as food and language and weather, and fewer still expected to leave their homeland so abruptly.

Some of the refugees have found it too difficult to start a new life from scratch, and a small minority even talk about returning to the now Communist controlled land. Camp officials said 32 refugees applied for a return trip to Saigon, citing "family reasons."

Many of those most able to cope with their situation are refugees who held honored professional positions in Vietnam. A census indicated there are more than 200 teachers, 100 professors, 200 doctors and dentists and 100 pharmacists in the camp.

DAILY PILOT

NEWSPAPER

SECT A, PAGE 10

DATE 31 MAY 75

Refugees allowed to return

By SHARON BOWMAN
T-A Staff Writer

OCEANSIDE —* For some South Vietnamese refugees, the pain of separation from their families is too much.

They cannot stand not knowing what has happened to their wives, husbands, children and parents.

And they can't bear the thought of making a new life in the United States without them.

The United States government is allowing any refugees who are unhappy here to go back if they want to

"because we don't want to hold anyone here against their will," according to Lt. Col. Arthur Brill, Camp Pendleton, public information officer.

The loudspeaker that blares messages in Vietnamese all day long in the refugee camp tells the refugees frequently that they may go back if they want to.

And so far, 39 of the 28,000 refugees who have been flown to Camp Pendleton say they want to go back. A military jet will fly them to South

Cont. On Page A-4, Col. 3

 ESCONDIDO TIMES ADVOCATE *SECTA, PAGE 1* DATE: *3 June 75*

Cont. From Page A-1

Vietnam as soon as federal red tape is cleared up, Brill said.

Meanwhile, those who want to go patiently wait for the jet to take them back to their families.

Nguyen Than Danh, 26, and Le Tan Than, 35, said they did not realize that they were coming to the United States when they hopped aboard an airplane amid confusion when the Viet Cong was advancing on Saigon.

"I saw many people getting on airplane," said Than. "So I am nervous. I get on airplane."

Both men were at work as aircraft mechanics at the base at Saigon and their families were at home.

Than said he fears that his wife and 13-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son might already have been killed because "the VC (Viet Cong) know I left my country."

Even though he realizes he himself may be killed upon his return, Thanh said he must go back to see if his family is all right.

Danh indicated he is not afraid to return to his country. He said he must get back to see his wife and 18-month-old daughter and 4-month-old son.

"I am very unhappy," said Danh. "I cannot live without my family."

Vo Thi Ngoc, a woman who appeared to be in her 50s or 60s, said she panicked when she heard that the Viet Cong was attacking Saigon. With her 11-year-old son and 13-year-old niece, she followed the crowd and got on an airplane, unaware of where it was going.

She was just visiting Saigon when this happened. Her husband and seven other children who range in age from 15 to 20 were left behind in their home on Catho Province. Also left behind is her 83-year-old blind father.

She feels her family needs her at home and is anxious to go back to be with them. Her hands and body trembled as she spoke.

She also said she did not fear being killed by the Viet Cong.

Le Vanbe, 20, has no other relatives except his 60-year-old mother, whom he left behind in South Vietnam.

Vanbe also got on a plane in panic, and later regretted he did not go back to get his mother.

He said he realizes that the Viet Cong might kill him, but he hopes they will allow him to see his mother first.

 ESCONDIDO TIMES ADVOCATE *SECT A, PAGE 1 (cont)* DATE: *3 June 75*

Refugee lines moving faster

CAMP PENDLETON (AP) — "We're seeing some light at the end of the bottle," a Marine spokesman declares, meaning that many of the refugees crowded into tents on this Marine base are about to rejoin the world outside.

"We're really moving them out now," Brill said Monday. "We had something of a bottleneck there for about three weeks in May, but yesterday 650 left camp — the highest total since May 2."

Still, the camp population is over 15,000, and nearly 300 new refugees arrived Monday.

Each refugee over 17 must be given security clearances by the U.S. State and Defense departments, the CIA, the FBI and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Since many of these checks have been initiated for those on Guam, Brill said, new arrivals shouldn't have to wait so long to leave — if they have sponsors.

He said now that security checks are speeding up and dietary matters such as too soggy rice and too few chopsticks have been resolved, the emphasis is shifting to acclimating the refugees to life in America.

But for the refugees, much as the recreation and lessons may divert them, the number one desire is to get out of tent city and into the "real United States" where they can find jobs.

Those refugees who did not have a contact "on the outside" are facing difficult choices. The size of Vietnamese families — not just mom, dad and kids, but grandmothers, nieces and uncles numbering into the 20s and 30s — makes it hard to find sponsors.

"Many Americans balk at taking in even one extra person, much less a family of 24," said Red Cross volunteer Frances Mace, an antique dealer from nearby Laguna Beach.

She was being sent from one makeshift office to another trying to sort out the paperwork for 32-year-old Tran Xuan Mai Thi, who had been a secretary and later managed a bowling center for American servicemen in Vietnam.

Refugees Speeded From Guam to U.S.

AGANA, Guam (AP) — Refugees started moving more rapidly from crowded Guam camps to the U.S. mainland Monday, and officials expressed hope that as many as 18,000 can leave here within a week.

"By June 10, we hope to be down 25,000 refugees on the island," said a Navy spokesman.

There are currently 42,912

Vietnamese on Guam, with 33,903 crammed into sprawling "Tent City."

With a new camp down open in Ft. Indiantown Gap, Pa., and space becoming available at the three other mainland camps, departures from Guam averaged 1,000 a day during the weekend.

On Monday, 2,599 left for Pennsylvania and Camp Pendleton, Calif.

However, more refugees are headed for this tropical island. Several Vietnamese merchant ships were reported near Guam carrying a few hundred passengers.

A Navy spokesman said 6,282 refugees who have been waiting at Subic Bay in the Philippines are to be flown to Guam at a rate of 250 a day over the next three weeks.

Initially, the military hoped to send that group directly to the mainland, but a spokesman said, "There just aren't enough processing centers for them there. Their immigration processing will have to be started on Guam."

About 200 persons left Wake Island Monday, leaving about 7,000 refugees there.

The Navy spokesman said, "Operation New Life" officials will strive to close down sections of "Tent City" as soon as the refugee population is reduced."

Residents of the massive camp site could be in danger if bad weather hits. Guam's rainy season is overdue, and forecasters have said that a major tropical storm or a typhoon could blow the fragile tents into the sea.

Therapists Sought To Help Refugees

Physical therapists and English-speaking instructor-assistants are being sought to do volunteer work at Camp Pendleton, Mrs. C. Temple Murphy, American Red Cross coordinator of volunteers at the Pendleton refugee camp, said.

The instructor-assistants will be assigned to support volunteer Vietnamese teachers in the camp. Their duties will be to help with language drills, give assistance to individual students and help the teacher with the general duties.

Experienced teachers or college students are preferred.

Registered physical therapists are needed to work with handicapped children.



SPONSOR—Arturo Petit, left, Msg. John Languille of Catholic Welfare Bureau, and the Long family. Times photo by Larry Sharkey

Refugees Get a Home—From Refugees

BY KATHY BURKE
Times Staff Writer

In 1962, when Arturo Petit and his family fled Cuba, the Catholic Welfare Bureau and a number of families helped them resettle in California.

Monday, under the sponsorship of Petit and five other Cuban families and with the help of the bureau, Nguyen Van Long, 45, and his family moved out of Camp Pendleton's Camp 8 and into a three-bedroom house in Chino.

"I know how they're feeling now," Petit said at a press conference Tuesday. "That's what pushed me and the others to help them."

Long worked in the Defense Attache Office in Saigon for eight years, operating and repairing a variety of copying machines. He hopes to find a job, perhaps as a carpenter.

He spoke for his family through an interpreter:

"When we entered the house, it was beyond our imagination. The house has three bedrooms, a refrigerator.

"Nearly 100 Cubans came to see my family. They brought gifts—toys for the children, candies, cookies.

"The wife of Mr. Petit prepared a Vietnamese meal for us.

"We were so moved by the friendly welcome. We were very happy."

Long's family includes his wife, Nguyen Thi Dieu, 43, his mother, Nguyen Thi Loc, 73, and four sons: Liem, 16; Hoang, 13; Ha, 8, and Hiep, 3.

"Their most immediate problem," Long conceded, is learning English. Long speaks only a little.

Asked if he thought there was a difference between the circumstances of the Cuban's flight from their country and that of the Vietnamese, Petit replied, "I don't think there is much difference.

"We are all human beings."

Those Refugees: More Opinion

Editor, The Union: There are more than 16 million Americans near starvation in our own country. They are the people who live in the Appalachian region.

If our government can give \$455 million to help Indochinese refugees, why can't it help our own poor of this region? If Mrs. Betty Ford is so concerned about the refugees, then she should be just as concerned about her own people. I would suggest that she take a tour of the Appalachian country, and see what being poor and hungry really is.

DOROTHY WALTER
San Diego

Editor, The Union: In the name of all that is decent, fair and humane, let us quit the bickering and thank God that we are privileged to lend a helping hand.

Let us show the world that this is still "the land of the free and the home of the brave," not merely in word, but also in action, by sharing our blessings with our fellow human beings.

PATRICK M. NOLAN
San Diego

Editor, The Union: "We are a nation of immigrants — of refugees"... has been said ad nauseum. True. But consider our history of immigration, beginning, if you will, in 1620 and continuing at wave intervals right down to 1914. Consider those immigrants and refugees "who built this country."

Was there — at any time — in 300 years of American history — a Congress to appropriate half a billion dollars, or half a million cents to sustain those new arrivals?

It is nauseating to hear the compassionate, patriotic bleats of our so-called public servants.

JOHN L. GRUBER
La Jolla

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
CODE PA
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380

CAMP PENDLETON, CA.
REFUGEE CLIPS

6 June 1975

File
New
Arrivals

Apologize For Ranting

EDITOR:

I feel that I must apologize for the slobbering ranting of retired Master Sergeant Donald R. Plunket. He seems to forget that active duty marines are not permitted to express opinions that are at variance with official policy. He should have known, however, since he says that he has been to the refugee camp each day for the past two weeks. One wonders what axe he has to grind with the refugees.

The bed check matter is a fact of life. Plunket has always had trouble with his facts so he wouldn't understand. Nothing was said about troops being abused. The troopers were baby sitting, changing diapers and cleaning heads because they were ordered to do so. A review of recent news films clearly shows the marines performing these chores. Perhaps if these films were to be run slowly, Plunket may be able to understand them.

ROBERT C. HIATT
Oceanside

Fed Up With Refugees

EDITOR:

In reference to our helpless refugees — boo, boo, boo.

I too am fed up with them.

I have been turned away from the Naval hospital and my children because of the refugees. I'm also infuriated at the fact that military dependents do not get dental care and the refugees do. Why them and not us?

It makes me laugh, the money we're spent on them; and they complain. The nerve — but maybe in a sense they are smarter than us Americans. I'm sure they are calling us "suckers."

Also, the fact that they are in Camp Pendleton, and our men go up there to help them on 24-hour shifts, they get fed cooked meals and our men take their lunch or eat C-rats. And now they're saying there are trained killers among them.

Nice, isn't it! I'm sure our thanks will be a bomb or a few killings or maybe war.

Now if the other half of our Americans who haven't been brainwashed by our Communistic government would speak up maybe something can be done.

PATRICIA BERGAMINI

Oceanside

U.N. To Aid Viets Wishing To Return

Special to the Herald-Examiner

CAMP PENDLETON — United Nations officials have set up an office here to assist South Vietnamese refugees who wish to return home.

Mohammad Charib, representing the U.N. high commissioner for refugees, said, "Over one thousand here and at other camps in the U.S. have indicated a desire to return, but I think that number will increase.

He said he met with about 50 refugees shortly after arriving here yesterday and learned that 74 persons in the camp have signed petitions saying they wish to return to South Vietnam.

Each refugee who wants to return must complete a 29-

item questionnaire. Charib said, adding that the road home "will be a long process."

"The questionnaires are required by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam to enable them to decide on the applications of those who wish to return," Charib said.

The U.N. official said indications are the present Vietnamese government "understands this humanitarian exercise and will do all it can to make it successful," but added it is being made clear to refugees that once they are repatriated, "we have no control . . ."

So far, no Cambodians at the refugee center here have indicated a desire to return home, according to Charib.



AP photo

MOHAMMAD CHARIB

S. Vietnam May Reject Refugees Asking To Return

Related story — Page B-1

By DONALD H. HARRISON
Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

CAMP PENDLETON — A representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees said yesterday there is a chance that the new government in South Vietnam will not accept all the refugees who have expressed a desire to return to their homeland.

Mohamad Gharib told a news conference that the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) of South Vietnam has insisted that refugees who wish to return must fill out a form with 29 questions, "some of which are very complicated."

Among the questions written by the PRG, the official said, are "Why did you leave South Vietnam?" and "Why do you wish to return?"

In response to reporters' questions, Gharib said he will seek permission from U.N. headquarters to release the exact text of the questionnaire.

Gharib, an Iranian who worked previously for the U.N. in the Sudan and in Switzerland, began his work with Camp Pendleton refugees Tuesday.

74 SEEK TO RETURN

He said 74 persons at Camp Pendleton have indicated they wish to return to Vietnam and that the number may increase.

Asked why he expected more, he replied it was because the refugees will be able to deal directly with U.N. representatives rather than with American civilian authorities.

The refugees, he said, may have had only a vague notion about the mission of the American authorities, but understand the purpose of the U.N. Refugee Commission.

FEEL UNWANTED

Nick Thorne, the senior U.S. government civilian coordinator here, also predicted in an interview that the number of refugees desiring to return to Vietnam would increase.

As they wait longer and longer for a sponsor, Thorne



MOHAMAD GHARIB
... U.N. representative

said, some refugees are beginning to "mistakenly believe they are not wanted in America."

Gharib said he met with 50 of the prospective returnees Tuesday and gave them the questionnaire.

The questionnaires, when completed, will be sent to U.N. headquarters in New York and then to Geneva, Switzerland, where they will be turned over to representatives of the PRG.

"The replies will return by the same route," Gharib said. "It will be a long process."

Should any of the prospective returnees be rejected, he said, the U.N. will try to arrange for their settlement in either the United States or a third country.

Asked if the High Commission had assurances that no reprisals would be taken against the refugees upon their return to Vietnam, Gharib said he had "good indications that the government of South Vietnam has a thorough understanding of the implications of this humanitarian exercise."

However, he said in response to further questioning, the U.N. has no way to monitor what happens to the people once they return to Vietnam.

Mission SLR adopts Viets

CAMP PENDLETON — A Camp Pendleton refugee bride's wedding day wish came true immediately when the parish priest of Mission San Luis Rey said, "My parish wants to give you a wedding present. We will sponsor all of you."

Speaking to the families of both couples who had been married in a double wedding ceremony the day before, Father Martin announced the good news with the help of Father Peter Cho, the Camp Chaplain.

As Father Cho translated the message to the families, (18 people in all), eyes grew big, smiles appeared on faces and everyone clapped.

Prior to the good news, Father Martin had explained to the couples and their families that he was from a nearby parish called Mission San Luis Rey.

"Our men are looking for property on which you can all be together," Father Martin added. "We'll help you find work, and go to school. This is our wedding present to you."

With a smile, he continued, "Will you accept our invitation as sponsors?"

The two families were then shown a large framed painting of the Mission and were told that the church was 200 years old.

Father Martin also agreed to add a friend of the family to the sponsored group when he was told that the friend had no other family or sponsor. The Mission will actually be sponsoring 19 refugees in all.

Phueng Van Hai, one of the

new grooms, thanked Father Martin on the families' behalf and expressed how much it would mean to them all to be together.

Father Martin said he had talked to men of the Saint Vincent De Paul Society, an organization within the parish that helps families in need.

They didn't want any delay on the sponsorship, he reported. The parish staff, he said, answered "Let's move!"

"We feel that they will need at least two homes and two apartments. We want to keep them close together and in the same area hopefully in the valley."

SAN MARCOS COURIER

NEWSPAPER SECT 1, PAGE 1

DATE 5 June 75

Refugees happy here

CAMP PENDLETON — What is life like in the Indo-Chinese refugee camp located in the northern end of this sprawling Marine Corps training base?

In the words of one refugee, "We didn't know how well we would be treated by the American people. Our faces are happy here. We are all glad to get out of Saigon alive.

"Our group of about 20 travelled together all the way from Guam. The American officials were very cooperative and understanding in letting us travel together," said one of the new arrivals.

The first step at Pendleton is to get situated in a tent or Quonset hut in one of the eight

refugee camp areas.

Family groups (which sometimes number more than a dozen), friends or employees of the same organization are permitted to share the same tent or hut if they so desire.

Each tent is set up with sixteen military cots, with air mattress, sheets and three blankets for every cot. The tents are standard Marine Corps size and, while not the most luxurious, they are comfortable.

"We had to get used to the cold night weather at first, especially after the heat on Guam. But the Marine Corps issued us military field jackets and blankets. It was quite a change in climate but we are now much more comfortable at night," said one head of family. "The days are warm, sunny and nice."

The second essential item is food for the refugees. There are many dining areas with 22 serving lines in operation. Three meals are served a day, cafeteria style. The diet is essentially a Marine menu with the addition of more rice, pork, chicken and fish than Americans are used to. Vietnamese culinary experts are on hand to advise the Marine and Navy cooks on preparation and serving, so the food may more closely resemble what most of the refugees are used to.

Said one mother of three children, "We realize the Americans are trying to make us feel at home with good food. We must now get used to American meals. We do get plenty of fresh fruit each day which the children love...such things as bananas, apples and oranges. It is very good for us all and it is familiar food for most of us."

The initial processing at Camp Pendleton takes only a few hours. New arrivals are assigned a processing number and proceed through the processing center when called. Those with some distance to



INFANT CARE . . . A small Vietnamese refugee wanders about of his crib in one of the recently established Camp Pendleton refugee camps. The sprawling base has set up its refugee child care center at Camp Five.— Marine Corp photo

travel to the center need only catch one of the shuttle buses which pass through each area every few minutes of the day.

"Now that the first processing here is finished, we must await our clearances and our sponsorship verification," said one refugee who expects to go to Washington state.

"The processing personnel were very kind and patient with us. Every form is printed in English and Vietnamese and didn't take long to fill out. Everybody is working hard to find us sponsors. People are moving out of the camp to their new homes every day."

There are more formalized English classes held each day in each camp area. Different

courses are taught for children and for adults. Most of what is taught are the essential words or phrases required to get along in American society. Such things as how to ask directions, how to shop, how to telephone, and other basic information are taught.

"We get most of the world and local news here in camp," noted a refugee. "We have a Vietnamese language newspaper each day; we receive several daily American newspapers; some of us have radios on which we listen to news broadcasts, and local information is announced over the public address system in the camp. I think we're all pretty well informed."

Magazines and books are

available through the camp area headquarters, movies are shown in several locations each night, there are entertainment groups who perform for the refugees nearly every day, and there are an increasing number of athletic and recreational events available.

As one refugee observed, "Some of us are three-time refugees. We escaped from the North 20 years ago, we moved from DaNang are and Saigon a month ago. Now we're anxious to settle down and start a new life in America."

Process 'long' for refugees' return

CAMP PENDLETON (UPI) — The United Nations opened an office in "Little Saigon" Wednesday to aid refugees who want to go back to Vietnam, estimating there about 1,000 of them.

Armed with questionnaires prepared by the new Communist government of South Vietnam, Muhomad Gharib, an Iranian on the staff of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, met Wednesday with 50 refugees who want to return.

"It will be a long process," Gharib predicted.

The Communist government in Saigon asked that the United Nations get involved in the repatriation of refugees, he said.

He said 74 refugees at this camp had made tentative requests to be sent back to Vietnam and that all told about 1,000 refugees in camps in the United States and Guam "have indicated a desire to return."

Applicants must answer 29 questions relayed by the Provisional

Revolutionary Government, the new rulers of South Vietnam, through U.N. offices in⁹ Geneva, Switzerland, he said.

The applicants must state why they left Vietnam in the first place, why they want to come back, what they intend to do when they return and to list relatives still living in Vietnam.

Gharib said there were no guarantees given that there would not be reprisals against the relatives listed, but that the U.N. believes the Saigon government "has a thorough understanding of the implications of this humanitarian exercise."

He added however that the refugees are "taking their own chances" in returning.

He said he expected the process to be lengthy because paperwork must be sent from the refugee camps to U.N. headquarters in New York, from there to the U.N. office in Geneva, which relays it to a Vietnamese mission there, and replies returned by the same route.

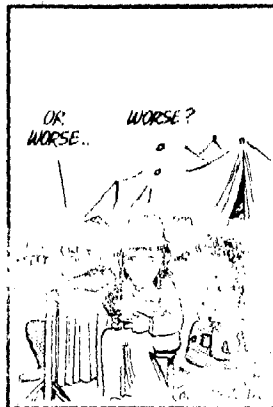
 ESCONDIDO TIMES ADVOCATE SECT A, PAGE 3 DATE: 5 June 75

San Diego, Thursday, June 5, 1975

EVENING TRIBUNE A-5

DOONESBURY

by Garry Trudeau



EVENING-TRIBUNE

SECTION A

PAGE 5

DATE 5 June 75

Possible Bar to Return of Some Viet Refugees Seen

BY KATHY BURKE
Times Staff Writer

Some Vietnamese refugees who have signed up on lists to return to their homeland might be refused reentry by the new government in Saigon, a representative of the U.N. High Commission on Refugees said Wednesday at Camp Pendleton.

Mohamad Gharib, explaining the repatriation process worked out between the High Commission and the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) in Paris and Geneva, said "it is very possible" some may not be accepted back.

He said the decision of the PRG

would be based on the refugee's answers to a questionnaire consisting of 29 questions, some of them designed "word-by-word" by South Vietnamese authorities.

The questions are "like an application you and I would fill out to get a passport," Gharib said. "Why the refugee left, why he wants to return now, whom he knows back in Vietnam."

The new Saigon regime reportedly had charged earlier that many Vietnamese were "kidnapped" by American forces during the evacuation and

pledged no reprisals against any refugees deciding to return home.

When asked about such a promise Wednesday, Gharib replied, "I simply do not know whether the statement you made came from the South Vietnamese or other sources."

Gharib said the United Nations could not offer any guarantees to the refugees.

He made this clear, he said, when he met Tuesday with about 50 of the 75 refugees at Camp Pendleton who have signed up for repatriation.

"I repeatedly said returning home is something for them to decide," he said.

"They should realize once they return to Vietnam they return to their own country and we have no mechanism to protect them. They return at their own risk."

Gharib said the questionnaires would be sent to the High Commission's office in New York, then to its headquarters in Geneva.

From there, they will be passed on to the PRG.

Gharib said the refugees already have been warned that their repatriation would be a "long process."

More than 1,000 refugees at four camps in the United States and those on Guam have signed up to return to Vietnam, Gharib said, and he personally believed the number would increase.

One reason for this, Gharib said, would be the fact that the United Nations rather than any civilian agency is now handling the repatriation.

"It would come as a comfort that we (the High Commission) are not aligned with any country," he said.

U.S. Turning Away Laotian Refugees

C. 1975 N.Y. Times News Service

VIENTIANE — Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Laotians, many employed for years for the United States, are being refused permission to go to the United States.

American consular officials here as well as at Udon and Bangkok in Thailand said Wednesday that they had turned away hundreds of such Laotians, while at the same time granting refugee status to hundreds of other Laotians holding South Vietnamese and Cambodian passports.

Many of the Laotians have told American officials that they fear for their lives as the Communist-led Pathet Lao movement takes over control of the country.

"It's a scandal and it's all the way the law was written,"

an American consular official said Wednesday.

The law to which the official referred was the congressional authorization that allowed the American Embassies in Saigon and Phnom Penh to issue "letters of parole," circumventing the strictures of the immigration and naturalization laws.

South Vietnamese and Cambodians were enabled to enter the United States as refugees without producing documentary evidence of needed skills or of relatives in the United States, the usual means of gaining immigrant status.

The law allowed unlimited parole authority only for holders of passports of South Vietnam and Cambodia and who were in those countries.

LOCAL ASIAN LEADERS AID

Refugee Reserve Studied

One in a series

By RUBY SEXTON

The Japanese have a word for it: "enryo" — a cultural quality variously defined as hesitancy, restraint, reserve, a lack of assertiveness.

A Chinese minister comments that his countrymen among the refugees at Camp Pendleton "are bound to be more reserved," that they will hesitate to make their needs or even their presence known.

IDENTIFY WITH THEM

This reserve seems to be a common thread running through Asian cultures, one that some Asian-Americans see as preventing attainment of their full human potential in American society.

Asian leaders here feel they may be more sensitive than others to the cultural backgrounds of the Viet-

namese and Cambodian refugees.

They can also identify — many from personal experience as refugees from war-torn areas or as uprooted Japanese-American internees here during World War II — with the fears and uncertainty of the refugees crowded into the tents and Quonset huts of the Camp Pendleton refugee center.

A strong compassion for the Indochinese refugees as "our Asian brothers" was echoed repeatedly in a series of interviews with Asian spokesmen.

The Vietnamese who settle in this country will not have an established base of previous immigrants from their own nation to turn to for aid and moral support. But they will find other Asian-Americans extending a welcoming hand.

Asian community groups

are in the forefront of those offering assistance to the refugees. Many are collecting clothing and other necessities, seeking sponsors and looking ahead to the needs of the Vietnamese in adjusting to American society.

CONCEPT DESCRIBED

Robert Ito, coordinator for an Asian employment consortium, described the concept of enryo at a recent seminar on minorities sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

He said Asian-Americans have been stereotyped as a group that has no problems because of this tendency to gloss over difficulties, to keep their problems from public view.

Spokesmen for the various ethnic communities say they are more sensitive to the refugees' apprehensions and

(Continued on B-7, Col. 1)

(Continued from B-1)

needs, that they can offer reassurance about the opportunities for Asian peoples in the United States.

Asian leaders, working together through the Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC), hope they can help the refugees with their transition into American society and provide a base of community resources to which they can turn for help.

They also want to avoid a recurrence of the problems of racial hostility and in some cases legalized discrimination that accompanied each past wave of Oriental immigration.

MANY QUESTIONS

Several Asian representatives who have visited the camp say they were besieged with questions about jobs, about sponsorship, about American life, about racial attitudes, about the negative reactions of some Americans to their resettlement here.

They also were told of complaints and problems the Vietnamese had been afraid to bring up with camp officials or other Americans.

But the scarcity of Asian faces among the American workers, volunteer and otherwise, at the Camp Pendleton refugee center is a matter of concern to Vernon T. Yoshioka, UPAC chairman and also president of the Japanese American Citizens League.

Although assistance from the Asian communities is being coordinated through UPAC, they and other ethnic groups here have been denied admission to the camp.

The volunteer groups working there are limited to national agencies such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army. However, some individual Asians are involved in their efforts.

The Rev. Peter Kung of the First Southern Baptist Chinese Mission in San Diego, who is with the Southern Baptist Convention's educational program, said the refugees are eager to talk with American people and are happy to see Asian-Americans with whom they can identify.

'MORE RELATED'

Ulyoun Diana Moore, a UPAC worker who was a Korean refugee 19 years ago, said she visited the camp with two American coworkers "but the Vietnamese felt a little more related to me."

Vietnamese students from the San Diego area were allowed into Camp Pendleton freely at first, before security regulations were tightened.

One of these students, Cathy Huong Do, who is working on a master's degree in social work at San Diego State University, said many of the refugees "feel very lost and very lonely."

The processing center and the volunteer agencies are doing a good job in meeting their physical needs, she

said, but they are extremely busy and no one has time just to talk.

Yoshioka said UPAC is promoting the establishment of an Asian resource center to assist the refugees on the Marine base and after they leave.

STUDENT HELPERS

The group hopes to obtain federal funds through the Pacific Asian Coalition to employ Vietnamese students at the center on a part-time or summer basis, he said. PAC is a national organization supported by the National Institute of Mental Health.

Most of the Vietnamese students were left without resources and unsure of their status when the South Vietnamese government fell. Their employment could serve a dual purpose by

helping to resolve their problems at the same time they are assisting their fellow countrymen, the UPAC chairman added.

"We need to have people on the base who can relate to the problems these people are facing from their cultural standpoint," he said.

UPAC is a nonprofit organization formed two years ago to provide communication and unified representation for the Asian ethnic communities.

VARIOUS GROUPS

Member organizations include the Chinese Social Service Center, Sons and Daughters of Guam Club, Guamanian Alliance, India Association, Japanese American Citizens League, House of China, Korean Association and the Samoan

Association of America.

The Filipino community of approximately 40,000 persons has its own Council of Filipino-American Organizations. The council and UPAC occupy adjoining offices in the Mabuhay Building at 2952 Market St.

The council, which takes in 25 Filipino groups, is also offering assistance to the Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees.

Popeo Balista, executive director, said the council will provide free medical aid at its Operation Samahan Health Clinic for the refugees who settle in the San Diego area. The clinic has also offered to send doctors and nurses to the refugee center.

In addition to their combined efforts through UPAC,

a number of Asian groups are working independently to help the refugees.

The House of China, a social and cultural organization, is conducting a clothing drive for the camp residents and is ready to offer friendship and help to those who settle here.

Virginia Fung, president, said the Chinese feel a close kinship with the Vietnamese. There are many similarities in their language, appearance and native dress, she said.

Jose Untalan, president of the Sons and Daughters of Guam, said the club collected clothing and bedding throughout the 5,000-member Guamanian community for the refugees and has put out a call for sponsors.

The Buddhist Church of

San Diego has been collecting clothing and shoes as part of a nationwide drive. The pastor, the Rev. Koju Terada, said Asians in general feel a responsibility to welcome the Vietnamese and help them in their resettlement.

He helped set up regular Buddhist worship services at the base. But he emphasized that the church is concerned not only with the Buddhist refugees — about half the total number — but those of all faiths. The Buddhist idea of oneness is that everyone is equal, he explained.

"They have anyway a sad feeling now," he said. "We have to comfort them."

Next — Asian community finds racial overtones to welcome accorded the Vietnamese refugees.



HUMOR UNIVERSAL — The language gap vanished when professional clown Rich Wise of Mission Beach entertained refugee children at Camp Pendleton today. Magic tricks, juggling, audience participation and lots of regular old clowning around by "Curly" kept the youngsters laughing. (Romero photo)

Refugees Make Very Good Citizens

One of the nicest gestures we've known of in some time was that of a group of Cubans, all former refugees who fled to the United States, who visited the Vietnamese refugee settlement at Camp Pendleton to bring this latest wave of people comfort and assurance of what they can look forward to in the United States.

It has long been a therapeutic principal that no one can deal better with those who have undergone a recent traumatic experience than those who have earlier suffered a like experience and have lived through it.

Many paraplegics have been given new hope by counseling and talking with others who have lost the use of their limbs. No one can talk to an alcoholic as well as a person who has had similar experiences and has overcome them.

And many women suffering the physical and psychological trauma of a breast removal have

been buoyed up by meetings with other women who have undergone a like incident and have returned to a normal life.

Thus, it was undoubtedly very heartening to the Vietnamese to talk with people who a decade ago were refugees from their native land, in a foreign country, and bewildered by new customs, harried by fears and homesicknesses.

Tales of the experiences of the Cubans and how they rose above their travail must have been inspirational to the Pendleton refugees, who are undergoing the trials and rigors of resettlement with all its myriad problems.

The example of the Cubans, who are becoming very good citizens so rapidly, should be taken by all Americans as an indication of what we should have known all along. Like our own forebearers, these refugees will become mightily good Americans.

State To Train Vietnam Refugees In Traffic Safety

By WAYMAN DUNLAP
Staff Writer

OCEANSIDE — The state Department of Motor Vehicles will inaugurate a vehicle safety program for Vietnamese refugees at Camp Pendleton beginning Monday.

The instructors will concentrate initially on bicycle and motorcycle safety and use films, displays and lectures, interpreted by a DMV employe, according R.L. Bartelt, manager of the Oceanside office.

Bartelt was meeting with officers of the Oceanside Police Department Traffic Division today to determine if their assistance would be available, but a traffic officer emphasized that no decision had been made and a request would have to be forwarded to the chief's office.

Bartelt said the decision to institute the program was made by Charles Ericksen, chief deputy director of the DMV in Sacramento.

State Department and military "red tape" was sliced through to get the program working, Bartelt said, and the Camp Pendleton officials "have really bent over backwards" to assist.

"The purpose is to familiarize them (the refugees) with the problems of American traffic," he explained, since the majority of the Vietnamese used either bicycles or motorcycles as their prime means of transportation in their own country.

Drivers license examiner Jim Chappel of the Oceanside office will work with the DMV's Duc Nguyen of the Sacramento office in the program, which will last "as long as there are refugees at Camp Pendleton," Bartelt said.

He did not know how much money had been expended for the program, he said. "They're finding money, that's all I can tell you."

Announcements were to be posted at the refugee camps today, and a notice was to be placed in the Vietnamese newspaper, announcing the beginning of the classes.

Chappel, who speaks French and a "smattering" of Vietnamese, will

conduct the classes, with Nguyen providing the interpretation, Bartelt said. Nguyen also translated the California Vehicle Code handbook into Vietnamese for the refugees, Bartelt added.

OCEANSIDE BLADE TRIBUNE, SECT. /

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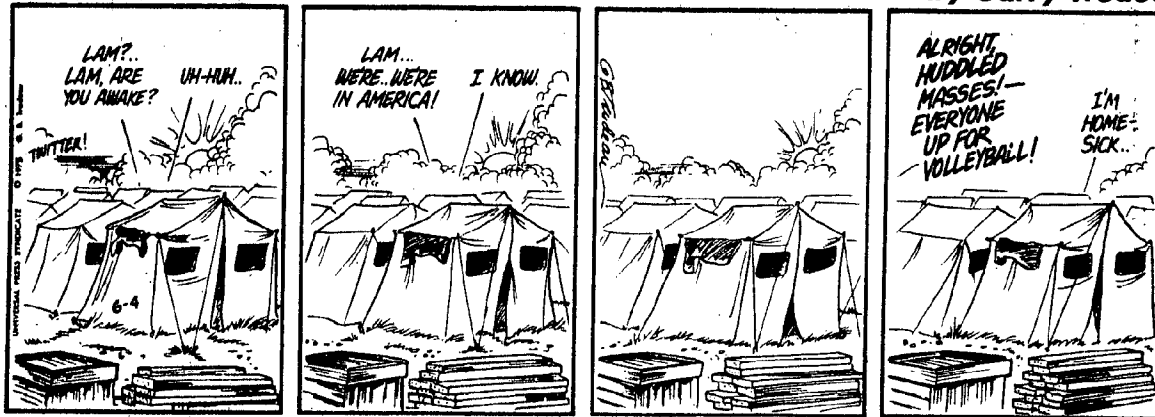
4 June 75

DOONESBURY

San Diego, Wednesday, June 4, 1975

EVENING TRIBUNE A-5

by Garry Trudeau



EVENING-TRIBUNE

SECTION

A

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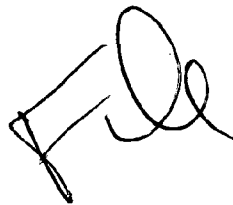
DATE 4 June 75

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
CODE PA
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380

CAMP PENDLETON, CA.

REFUGEE CLIPS

9 June 1975



AIDS REFUGEES**General
Postpones
Retirement**

By DONALD H. HARRISON

On Saturday, April 26, Brig. Gen. Paul Graham was moving his belongings from the Camp Pendleton base commander's residence to his new home in Oceanside. After 33 years in the Marine Corps, he was scheduled in four days to begin a new life as a retiree.

Today, Graham still has not retired, and he hasn't had the chance to unpack his belongings either. He has been too busy helping other people start a new life: to date, nearly 30,000 Indo-Chinese refugees.

At 5:30 p.m. that Saturday, Graham received a telephone call from Col. Jack Dausman, his chief of staff. Washington had called to say there was a possibility that Camp Pendleton, the nation's largest amphibious training base, might be needed as a refugee camp.

"We were told that there wasn't much chance that Camp Pendleton would be selected, but I had my staff come in at 7 p.m. to discuss the possibility," Graham recalled in an interview.

"I asked them where we could put a refugee camp, and how many people we could possibly accept. We decided on the Camp Talega area, which is remote from

(Continued on B-4, Col. 2)

(Continued from B-1)

the main part of the base, near the barracks, the ambulance and helicopter. We estimated we could accommodate 18,000 persons."

That information was messaged to Washington that same Saturday night, but there was no response from the Pentagon until Monday, Graham said. "Then they told us we were selected." The first arrivals would be at Camp Pendleton the next day.

Graham's retirement ceremony was then just two days away, and the Pentagon planned to have Brig. Gen. William L. McCulloch, commandant of the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, handle both assignments, at least until June 2 when McCulloch was scheduled to be relieved by Maj. Gen. Charles D. Mize.

"I knew that running the division and the base, especially with the refugees coming, would be a major undertaking," Graham said. "When I was talking with Marine headquarters later that day, I told them I would continue on if they needed me."

Within a half hour, Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., the Marine commandant, accepted Graham's offer, and Graham's retirement papers were pulled back from the Secretary of the Navy's office. His retirement was rescheduled for June 30.

COULDN'T WALK OFF

Why did he make the offer? "I've been a Marine for 33 years," Graham replied simply. "I couldn't turn and walk away from it all."

The Pentagon had said about 18,000 refugees would come to Camp Pendleton in the first wave, and that the population thereafter would remain relatively constant.

"We knew we needed 970 tents, 18,000 cots, sheets, pillow cases and blankets," Graham recalled. "We knew that Marines would use two blankets each, but that the Vietnamese were not acclimated to the cold and would need three each. So one of our first tasks was to procure 54,000 blankets instead of 36,000."

NEEDS DISCUSSED

"At that staff meeting, we had to think about their arrival, what they would need — wash basins, towels, soap, tooth paste and things like that — and we had to get in a water system."

"We had to bring in electricians, telephone riggers. We had to open our mess halls. We needed over 1,000 cooks, bakers and messmen. We had to purchase over 300,000 pounds of rice. We had to get 688 chemical toilets . . ."

"We had to construct mess halls, bring in field kitchens, establish hospitals, find places for civilians coming in (we now have over 80 trailers for them); we had to set up a motor pool, contract for additional office furniture, telephones and desks."

The list went on and on. The important thing was "we had to do all this immediately."

Camp construction got under way that Monday, and on Tuesday 888 persons — refugees, Americans and dependants — arrived. dependents lodging for 5,000 persons had been constructed in what Graham described as "a tremendous training experience for the Marines."

Graham said the Marines under his command, while commiserating with the refugees, "enjoyed reacting to the logistics, to a challenge that size, of making the camp functional."

During the period of the refugee camp's birth, the Marines also were staging an amphibious exercise off the shore of Camp Pendleton. Graham said that despite all the effort and man hours that went into the refugee camp's construction, "we did not have to seriously interfere with the normal mission here."

LITTLE REST

Since Operation New Life began on April 29, Graham has taken only two days off work.

His day normally starts at 7:30 a.m. and might not end until 8 p.m. or later.

On a typical day recently, Graham was briefed by his chief of staff and conferred with Gen. Mize shortly after arriving at his office on the main base.

At precisely 8:30 a.m., he walked into a conference room as an aide announced: "Gentlemen, the commanding general." About 20 Marine colonels and Navy captains came to their feet. "Gentlemen, you may be seated," said Graham, starting a conference with the leaders of his tenant commands.

ROUTINE PROBLEMS

There were reports from ranking officers for personnel services, security, the Navy Medical Center and the like. Many concerned routine problems associated with running a Marine base with a non refugee population of 38,000, an annual payroll of \$182 million and an ongoing construction program of \$82 million.

Considerable discussion dealt with the refugee camp as well. An officer of the Navy Regional Medical Center said he was concerned

about the accommodations assigned 41 Navy hospital corpsmen at the refugee camp.

The corpsmen were billeted in a Quonset hut located the equivalent of two blocks from running water, the officer said. "Let's see if we can't find them something else," Graham said.

An officer of another command asked if two of the four officers assigned to the refugee camp could be returned to their original duty.

ABSOLUTE NEED

"Please remember that there is an absolute need to support the refugee camp," Graham replied. "I appreciate the problem that you are tight, but if I feel it is essential to keep them, I'm sorry that is the way it will have to be."

"We certainly don't want this refugee operation to go into the winter months," Graham added. "We want to wind this up in the next few months so we won't have to winterize the tents, so these people won't be exposed to any colder weather than they are already."

Later in the day, Graham met with Nick Thorne, the government's senior civilian coordinator, on ways to make refugee processing more efficient. One decision was to send thousands of forms to Guam. Henceforth, refugees would be asked to fill them out on the flight between Guam and Camp Pendleton, rather than upon arrival at Camp Pendleton.

Another meeting was with the Marine officers who serve as commanders of the various refugee camps. Graham told them to be on the look out for refugee children who don't belong to any family. Some children arrived at the camp with

friends who subsequently were sponsored, and now are on their own, he said.

Graham also told them to ask all refugees whether they had seen a representative of one of the volunteer agencies since May 17. The volunteer agencies, which process applications for sponsorship, have reported losing touch with some refugees, Graham said.

Between the meetings, Graham shuttled between the refugee camp and his office on the main part of the base, a 10-minute flight by Huey helicopter. On one flight, he and his entourage vaulted from the helicopter to the landing circle after the copter's "fire warning" red light went on. The trouble later proved to be a short circuit in the warning system, unrelated to any fire danger.

He also made quick walking tours of the processing center and of one of the tent camps, receiving with smiles the salutes of refugee children. He stopped often to ask the refugees if they had any problems.

Whenever one did, Graham would direct his aides, 1st Lt. Mike Antonelli and Sgt. Maj Henry Kajdacz, to take note of it, and he promised the refugee he would find an answer.

One woman asked if he would check to see if her papers were in order. Graham said he would, commenting later: "Of course there is nothing wrong. These things just take time. But I'll check and reassure her."

Many refugees need reassurance, Graham said on reflection.

"Their reliance on the United States government at

this point is absolute," he said. "I haven't spoken to anyone who hasn't expressed a tremendous sense of relief, a tremendous sense of gratitude that he is being taken care of."

He added: "The refugees here don't want welfare. They have a lot of personal pride and they want to be successful citizens. They sit by the hour in classes trying to learn English. They have a voracious appetite for reading material. They particularly like films and magazines about places in the United States. They are curious about what it looks like. They want to learn about places like Texas, Minnesota and New York."

The general said he believed that most refugees in the camp are worried about sponsorship. "Many have repeatedly told me that they don't want to be a burden," he said. "They want sponsorship to be a two-way street. They want to be helpful to their sponsors."

LAW-ABIDING.

"They are a religious people and law-abiding citizens," Graham added. "I don't think we'll find many Vietnamese who won't be attributes to American society."

Graham said he believes the Marines under his command share his feelings about the refugees.

"There has been a smile on the Marines' faces," he said. "There is a healthful attitude that permeates this camp. While this is no Boy Scout camp — people aren't here on vacation — you don't see depression. The refugees are happy to talk to you. They don't turn away when they see Americans coming. They are eager for conversation."



— Staff Photo by Dan Tichonchuk

Brig. Gen. Paul Graham holds briefing session on problems of housing Vietnamese refugees at Camp

Pendleton. Graham, who was to retire in May, has stayed on to direct the refugee operation.

Oldest refugee braves new life

by ROBERT DILLON
TRIBUNE Military Writer

CAMP PENDLETON — In 1867, the year Tran Thi Nam was born, French Empire troops completed the conquest of what is now North and South Vietnam.

Yesterday, at age 109, Mrs. Nam, the senior citizen of the Indochinese refugee community of more than 16,000 here, chatted with fellow Vietnamese and asked if there would be work for her to do.

Vietnamese children are considered one year old at birth.

She arrived at the "Little Saigon" section of this Marine Corps base Wednesday night from Guam accompanied by 14 members of her family.

More than 90 of her descendants were left behind in Vietnam.

"She remembers the French occupation very well," said step-grandson Nguyen Huu Tam, 38, until a month ago a chief hospital corpsman in the South Vietnamese navy.

"There was very little peace in my grandmother's life," he said. "There was guerilla fighting against the French, against the Japanese (in World War II) and against the Communists."

"She is still strong and would like to work with farm animals and help care for children, but I am responsible for the family now and I want to work in this country and let her rest."

It was Tam, who was trained in advanced combat medicine at San Diego Naval Hospital in 1973, who brought his family to safety. The group included his wife of six months.

He packed the family plus 26 other Vietnamese into a 20 ft. boat at An Thoi, once a U.S. Navy base on Phu Quoc Island, and set a course into the South China

Sea, praying to reach an American ship.

A U.S. merchant vessel found them.

Phu Quoc Island was the last Vietnamese stop in the family's exodus from communism. Mrs. Nam was born a North Vietnamese and fled south with her family in 1954 with an estimated one million Christians and non-Communists after the French defeat at Dien Bien Phu.

She has been a widow since 1920.

Tam, the Navy medic, tried to explain his grandmother's longevity.

"She was always tranquil with neighbors and she never scolded her children. She has always been very kind."

Tam said he hopes to meet some U.S. Navy and Marine Corps friends he made while training in San Diego.

"I need a sponsor to help start a new life in America."

Tam's family is among the average 400 refugees now arriving here daily from holding camps at Guam, Wake Island, The Philippines and Thailand.

About 500 are processed out daily to approved sponsors throughout the U.S. and other nations, including Canada, Great Britain, Australia, France, West Germany and Iran.

A delegation representing Latin American nations is scheduled to open a resettlement office here tomorrow.

So far, more than 70,000 South Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees have arrived here and at three other U.S. refugee centers since April 29. Of those, about 29,000 have been processed out to relatives and sponsors.

California leads the list, with 1,300. Florida is second, with nearly 600.



NEWCOMER — Vietnamese refugee children surround one of Camp Pendleton's newest arrivals, Tran Thi Nam, 109, who arrived at camp's tent city Wednesday. Mrs. Nam fled South Vietnam April 30 with 14 members of her family in a 20-foot boat. — AP Wirephoto

Refugee Aid Volunteers Sought

OCEANSIDE — Local volunteers are being recruited to help resettle refugees by the federal ACTION agency.

According to David Byrnes, an ACTION spokesman, the agency is recruiting volunteers today and Saturday in Oceanside at the Community Action Corporation facility at 605 San Deigo St.

Volunteers who live in the immediate vicinity of Camp Pendleton are needed to assist federal agencies and private, non-profit relief organizations in resettling the Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees arriving at the base.

ACTION is seeking 25 volunteers to handle administrative support tasks at the Camp Pendleton refugee camps. Volunteers will be asked to commit their services for one full year and will receive in return \$50 per week.

Applicants must be 18 or older and in good health. Those with their own transportation and any knowledge of either the Vietnamese or French languages are preferred.

The ACTION recruiters will interview volunteers today at the CAC office until 5 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. till noon. The CAC phone number is 757-7011. Applications may also be submitted to the regional ACTION recruiting office at 1068 16th Street, San Deigo (phone 293-5083).

Volunteers will commute to the refugee camp for duty, which will include such tasks as interviewing refugees, documentation, and processing and working with the various private relief organizations involved in resettlement.

Refugees Stench In Nostrils

EDITOR:

After having read and heard numerous opinions of citizens of this country, I decided to voice mine.

I am a compassionate person, but I do believe that charity begins at home!

This Vietnamese situation has become a stench in my nostrils. Who knows how many of them are North Vietnamese Communists?

We owe to our own people who've lived here and paid taxes etc. all their lives and generations back, and many are pushed outside and neglected, living in abject poverty, told "not qualified for welfare or food stamps!" Now the government is issuing social security to these refugees.

They aren't citizens, they are a menace to all here, with these diseases they've no doubt carried in. After reading Louise Welch's comments, I agree most heartily about all the other immigrants.

But, the Indians weren't immigrants, they were here when we came to this country, and they've been pushed almost to extinction, from one reservation to another that they couldn't raise anything on it but hell, the ground was so rocky and poor.

I don't have to ask or wonder what kind of treatment we'd get if the situation were reversed. We've probably face the firing squad, let alone being housed, fed, pampered and given benefits they have no right to.

It seems to be forgotten the conditions of service men who returned finally, after being in prison camps over there! Broken bag of bones!

And what if a number of the children were fathered by Americans, that has always happened in any war, and happening here without one! Then the orphans brought over here and the "gullibles" race to the boat to adopt them, when we have orphanages full of American children needing homes in their own land.

If the right kind of regulations and rules were instigated, for them they could be adopted "first" as should be. We are overrun here in California with the alien Mexican living on welfare (our taxes) in far better style than some who are working their butt off to be independent and self-supporting, and now Vietnamese getting welfare too.

Doesn't seem to pay to be a decent, law abiding conscientious, hard worker anymore.

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SAN DIEGO UNION SECT. 1

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10 Refugee Aides Sought At Pendleton

San Diego Union Staff Dispatch

OCEANSIDE — Representatives of a federal agency will interview today candidates for jobs as aides in the processing and relocation of South Vietnamese refugees at Camp Pendleton.

ACTION, a federal volunteer agency for the administration of volunteer programs in the United States and foreign nations, is seeking 10 persons for clerical positions at the Marine base.

Don Stewart, ACTION area communications manager, said interviews would be conducted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Oceanside Community Action Corp. building at 605 San Diego St.

He said persons selected would receive \$50 per week and would be employed at Camp Pendleton for a one-year period.

Stewart said applicants must be over 18 years and in good health.

The ACTION representative said a knowledge of the French language would be helpful to persons applying for the positions.

The ACTION representative said both men and women would be considered for the clerical positions.

NEWEST PENDLETON REFUGEE**109, She Refuses to Die Under Communist Rule****BY KATHY BURKE**
Times Staff Writer

It is the children who understand her distinction almost immediately, and though she does little to amuse them, they stand around her wheelchair and stare until she is pushed away by one of her grandchildren.

They stare at Tran Thi Nam because she is 109 years old and she looks it, with a grid of wrinkles crossing her brown face.

She arrived at Camp Pendleton two days ago from Guam, where she was taken after an American ship picked up a small motorboat off the Vietnam coast. She and 14 members of her family escaped from their home on Phu Quoc Island.

Nam was born in North Vietnam and had fled the Communists in 1954. This time, too, she seems sure of why she fled.

"I came because the Viet Cong chased me away," she said through an interpreter. "I'd rather die some-

where else than die in Vietnam at the hands of Viet Cong."

Neither Nam nor her son, 73, who was a butcher on Phu Quoc Island nor her grandchildren have yet found a sponsor. It did not seem to matter to her.

When asked where she will live, she only said: "Here. I will stay here and if I die, they will bury me here."

She seemed content that her three living children escaped from Vietnam during the evacuation. (Five others are dead of natural causes and her husband died about 60 years ago in North Vietnam.)

She was jovial and lucid while talking to reporters and said there is only one thing from Vietnam that she truly misses now.

"I have no betel," she said, referring to the Vietnamese custom of chewing betel nuts.



Refugee Tran Thi Nam, 109, with some new friends at Camp Pendleton
AP Wirephoto

L. A. TIMES SECT. 2 PAGE 1 (cont) DATE 7 June 75

Notes From a Camp Pendleton Diary

BY CHARLES T. POWERS
Times Staff Writer

CAMP PENDLETON—"On the 28th of April we were notified that we would be one of three processing centers in the United States and that we would begin receiving Vietnamese refugees within 24 hours." The marine briefing officer had stood easily before a map of the base and then, moving into the liquid brilliance of the sunlight on the officers' club patio, he took a chair, arranged cigarettes and matches on the table before him and went on, his tone understated, professional, firm enough to be heard above the low-gear growl of trucks on the road beyond.

"We determined we had the capacity to house 18,108 people in tents and Quonset huts, and by noon on the 28th, we had marines and civil service employees erecting the tents that would create, in effect, a mimicry.

"On the 29th, the first refugees arrived. That day, we had 813 arrivals, with 406 departures. Within a couple of days, we had thousands. Our troops went into round-the-clock operation, and by the 3rd of May we had shelter installed for 18,000. We erected 958 tents and laid 20 miles of electrical lines and 35,000 feet of water mains and feeder lines. We expanded telephone lines from seven to over 100 by the end of the first week. We established mess halls and were operating 22 serving lines to feed the people."

(Minutes earlier a more senior briefing officer, a young lieutenant colonel flown out on special assignment from the Pentagon, had gripped the edges of his lectern and proffered, among his series of facts, hard-edged, immutable, this: "Total meals served to date—1,226,182.")

'We're Going to Get It Back'

"Within the camps we created an infrastructure among the Vietnamese. A marine commander and his staff are assigned to each camp, and they work with the Vietnamese infrastructure to coordinate general operations and handle various problems."

(Out in the camp, a marine major was speaking: "This may be the most important operation we've ever undertaken, do you realize that? We've lost a lot in the military—or had a lot taken from us." Here the major's finger jabbed toward his visitor. "The press. Man, I could tell you some things about the press. But we're going to get it back. We're in the limelight now and we're going to get it back.")

The marines, as the briefing officer concluded, replacing the pack of cigarettes into the elastic of his stocking, were the first into Vietnam and they were the last to leave, and now, with a new mission, they were here.

Here. Come back home with the people whose hearts and minds had been won or purchased or ransomed and, finally, simply defended to the end. And it had about it, as the major suggested, the look of an operation, even in the



SETTLING IN—Vietnamese refugees have an infrastructure of their own in Pendleton tent city.

Times photo

familiar efficiency of the briefing. Years ago, there had been the daily body count. Enemy dead, enemy wounded. Missions flown, bombs dropped. The concepts of the Strategic Hamlet and Pacification and Vietnamization. And infrastructures here now too, back home within the secure perimeters of the camps, where there will be a rebirth of the old spirit, with zero defects, and the total number of meals fed to date is one million, two-hundred and twenty-six thousand, one hundred and eighty-two.

Judging from the talk that can be heard on the streets of places like Oceanside (a town touched more than most by Vietnam casualty reports), or even from certain public officials, there are some Americans who are worrying and wondering who these people are, why they are here and why they did not stay behind, either to fight or make their peace.

A few days ago, at the edge of the first row of tents in Camp 6, the marines were handing out jackets from the back of a truck. The jackets were made of quilted nylon

and came in orange, tan and blue and there were fleecy yellow ones with hoods for the babies and small children. The Vietnamese stood in orderly lines as an apple-cheeked marine captain, silver bars flashing on his collar, called out the sizes to his men on the truck and handed out the jackets to the waiting refugees.

Word of the jackets spread steadily through the camp and presently a man joined the line, carrying the field jacket he had been issued earlier to exchange for the new nylon jacket. He looked no older than 25, and he was wearing a flight suit that identified him as a jet pilot in the Vietnamese Air Force.

The flight suit was also made of nylon, gray-green, with zippered pockets on the chest, shoulders and legs and a bright insignia on the shoulder, a blue shield crossed by a streak of lightning. The zippers at the cuffs of the flight suit hung loose and the trousers flapped, calling special attention to his footgear—an incongruous pair of brown chunky-heeled platform shoes, soles an inch and a half thick.

All-American Outfit

It could be assumed—fairly—that every stitch of clothing the young pilot wore had come from America, and that for years, perhaps almost as long as he could remember, most of what he or his family owned, directly or indirectly, for good or ill, had come from America and its presence in his country.

He had become a young man and Americans had taught him to fly a jet plane built in St. Louis and fire rockets made in New Jersey while wearing a suit designed after those officially approved by the Strategic Air Command in Omaha, receiving his pay in piastres backed by American gold to buy platform shoes from the PX and dance at the officers' club to records cut in studios in Burbank.

And people wonder why he is here.

Scenes at Camp Pendleton are played out by a perplexing and sometimes moving cast of characters, alternately funny and venal or charitable and self-important. Naturally, it is the Vietnamese who are standing rather calmly (and helplessly) at the center of all this, watching while Americans run frenzied circles around them. It must remind some of them of the salad days back in Saigon when one man claimed to be the bureaucracy and the next offered to cut through it.

With some 14,000 refugees still waiting to be processed out of Camp Pendleton (and perhaps several thousand more who will eventually arrive from Guam), a welter of official and semi-official agencies have swarmed in to do battle with the problem, creating a small village of mobile office trailers and a population of clipboard carriers. Viewed from a distance, it might be the site of a recent oil strike.

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Up close, though, the signs on the trailers identify the local outposts of the State Department, ABC News, the Marine Liaison Office, the Office of Travel Information, Red Cross Disaster Services, the U.S. Catholic Conference (three trailers), the Lutheran Refugee Service, the International Rescue Service, Church World Services, Esso, IBM, HEW, the California State Employment Department, Red Cross Volunteer Services (Public Relations), Social Security and U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. It is also widely assumed that the CIA is here, reportedly searching for Viet Cong infiltrators, but that trailer doesn't have a sign on it.

For the fast thinker, the raw material of opportunity is abundant in such a rich field of confusion and vulnerable people. Exploitation takes many forms. Some officials have noted the presence of ladies from the stately manors of Beverly Hills, down to recruit domestic help now that the pipeline of illegal alien women from El Salvador seems to be drying up. It is also not unusual to see in the parking lots sleek El Dorados steered by men in wide-brimmed hats and the kind of clothes that would identify them on Hollywood Blvd. as ambitious pimps.

(Some flesh peddlers, apparently, got in on the ground floor. A man who was in Saigon in the last days reported seeing sudden delegations of men in shiny suits and diamond and pinky rings recruiting among Saigon's classier prostitutes and B-girls, signing up as their sponsors and leaving them with American money and numbers to call in Las Vegas when they reached the States. Presumably, they are already contributing to the gross national product.)

The other day, there were two American men in camp who were, in a manner of speaking, investigating a certain "business opportunity" among the Vietnamese. Ostensibly, they were there to find sponsors for refugees who might be helpful to their venture, which, essentially, was a land deal to be located somewhere in the West and which one of the men, in a moment of unguarded optimism, suggested "might net \$20 million."

They needed men with certain basic skills, for they had in mind the development of a whole community in which the Vietnamese would somehow (the details were muddled) be both buyers and builders through an ingenious system of low-interest loans. And they needed to find refugees who might have influence among their neighbors in the camp. Walking through the dust of midday, they located a tent in Camp 6 occupied by a man named Thanh and his family of five.

Thanh emerged from his tent, ducking under the flap. He was a stocky man with muscular shoulders and cautious eyes, dressed in rubber shower shoes, blue trousers and a field jacket. He appeared to be about 40.

Introductions were accomplished and pleasantries exchanged, and the Americans asked Thanh what his occupation was in Vietnam.

"I was colonel in the Vietnamese Air Force," Thanh answered.

The Americans nodded. Very interesting.

"I was commander of tactical wing in Air Force," Thanh said, and waited.

"And before the Air Force, what did you do?" he was asked.

Thanh looked at them in puzzlement. (What did *anyone* do before the Air Force?) It appeared he did not understand the question, or did not hear it correctly. It was repeated. Thanh again looked puzzled and shook his head. Then one of the Americans began to understand the situation, the basic problem.

"How long," he asked, "were you in the Air Force?"

"In Air Force 16 years," Thanh replied.

The Americans looked at each other, blinking in recognition. Thanh had always been in the Air Force; he had never known anything else.

Walking away, one of the Americans said, "We should have asked him if he knew any civil engineers."

A great religious movement has been sweeping the refugee compound at Camp Pendleton, but it might not be fair to assume that the sudden interest in Christianity is

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due principally to the fact that the groups most actively turning up sponsors for the Vietnamese are church-oriented organizations. A great many Vietnamese were Christians, or lapsed Christians, before arriving in the United States.

Nevertheless, the number of new converts has rather astonished and delighted the church representatives on duty among the field tents. The other day, after military chaplains got involved in the double wedding of two Catholic-refugee couples, a parish in San Diego County came forward to sponsor the four newlyweds, 18 members of their families and one friend. News like that travels fast in a refugee camp where about 8,000 people are still waiting for sponsors.

The other day, a large baptism ceremony was held, featuring total immersion in the shallow end of an Olympic-length swimming pool at the north edge of the camp. Forty Vietnamese arrived by bus carrying bundles of sheets. They looked bemused, possibly apprehensive. The baptism

was arranged by the Christian Military Alliance, an organization which has had missionaries in Vietnam since Theodore Roosevelt was President. The Rev. Phan Zien Hein, an ascetic-looking man in a dusty black suit, presided. Among those to be baptized was Nguyen Bich Hue, formerly the minister of finance in the South Vietnamese government.

"I had intention to be baptized before I left Saigon," Hue said. He adjusted the sheet wrapped around his shoulders. "I was attracted by the principles and ethics of the Christian religion. But before, there was never enough time, since I was, technically, very busy."

"But now I leave Vietnam in a very difficult situation. And I think God wants to give me an opportunity to express my gratitude."

The Vietnamese assembled on a stand of bleachers, relatives and well-wishers to the rear, those to be baptized in front, in their sheets. Various military chaplains stood about, as well as a squad of photographers, mainly from the Marine Corps public affairs office (and one cameraman who said he was working for Time magazine and respectfully asked Mr. Hein if he could please hurry up with "the dunking" because he had another assignment).

After prayers and songs, with an accordion accompaniment provided by a Vietnamese youth, Mr. Hein got on with the "dunking." One by one, the people stepped down the chrome ladder into the pool. Another minister, Truong Van Tot, read their names and laid them back gently under the water. Most appeared quite stricken as they emerged, wiping chlorine from their eyes.

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A man from Northern California, a former CMA missionary himself, had sponsored one of the Vietnamese couples going through the baptism ceremony. When it came time for the Vietnamese man to slip into the water, the sponsor beamed his appreciation and stood at the edge of the pool while one of the photographers got a shot of him looking on while his friend was baptized. When the man emerged from the pool, the sponsor was ready with his own camera. "Wait," he called out.

The Vietnamese man turned, his sheet dripping and his face devoid of expression—neither joy nor discomfort, but a perfect blank—and stood almost as if at attention while his sponsor took his picture. When the camera clicked, the man turned without a word and continued to the bathhouse to change his sodden clothes.

The Vietnamese population of the camps has been in constant flux, but one of the more dominant impressions of the people is that, despite language difficulties, they seem in some ways more American than many Americans. That is, they display qualities that were once regarded as important to all Americans. Camp church services are filled every Sunday. Families are close, nearly to the point of being inseparable. ("They're close the way American families were 40 or 50 years ago," said a chaplain.) They are thrifty, prudent and, despite the enormous difficulties presented by their living conditions in dirt-floored tents, clean beyond any accounting.

So far, they are also innocent of crime. No thefts have been reported, no swindles, no aggravated assaults nor bodily harm, and, outside of some pushing and shoving in lines, no visible evidence of conflict.

(There has been one major "loss" at the camp. Nguyen Van Quyet, the Vietnamese coordinator at Camp 3, explained how it happened. "An elderly woman went to the showers to bathe," he said. "She carried a money belt with her. She took her shower, and when she finished, she dressed and left, leaving her money belt hanging in the shower. She did not remember it until five hours later. When she returned, it was gone." The money belt contained \$8,000. It has not been returned.)

The first refugees to arrive at the camps included Vietnamese who had the best American connections. Some were wives of Americans (or couples of mixed American and Vietnamese citizenship) who were processed out in little more than a day. Others were long-time employees of U.S. military or government agencies, faithful servants of well-placed American bureaucrats who saw Saigon's end well in advance. They had made early arrangements for their families' evacuation and lined up American sponsors who were then in Vietnam themselves and who would be most certain to have safe passage out of the country and secure positions in the U.S. upon their return.

Some of these people were well to do, at least by Vietnamese standards (and some were rich by any standard—bankers, businessmen, a few black market profiteers) and they took steps to get as much money out of the country as possible. Not many succeeded. (A few, according to a knowledgeable Vietnamese man who had connections with the government and the banking community, got their money to Taiwan or into Swiss banks, but the process was complicated and depended on a trustworthy courier.)

A broad middle class followed, most of whom worked in some capacity for American interests in Vietnam, but whose access to offices of influence was more limited. In many of these families, both mother and father worked for the government. They lived with large families in homes passed down from parents and grandparents. As the Communists advanced, these people scrambled to cash in what assets they had, exchanging piastres for dollars or

dollars for gold. Now, at Camp Pendleton, they have been lining up outside the trailer operated by a currency exchange company, converting their gold wafers (called *taels*) to American cash.

An American employee of the exchange company said that, while a few Vietnamese have turned up with substantial amounts of gold or cash, most of the Vietnamese he has dealt with speak of having very little and they ap-

pear to be greatly worried. "The most I've seen," he said, "is about \$8-9,000 in gold. But mostly it's one or two taels or a few dollars in foreign currency."

As he spoke, two transactions had taken place. A Chi-

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nese couple from the Cholon section of Saigon counted out \$4,400 in \$20 bills and sent bank drafts of \$2,200 each to a brother-in-law in Taipei and to an account at the Chemical Bank of New York. They were followed by a man who passed over a variety of crumpled currency from Thailand, France and Korea and was given \$1.68 in return.

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DATE

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A rock 'n' roll combo from San Diego had been playing on a platform in front of an asphalt parking lot between Camps 3 and 4. They played faithful, slightly watered down versions of standard American pop tunes and had gathered in the afternoon sunshine a crowd of about 1,000 Vietnamese, mostly teen-agers and children, and a group of 40 American students who had come by bus from a nearby high school.

It was a curious gathering. The American teen-agers, big and startlingly blonde among all the heads of glistening black hair, moved like giants encircled by small frolicking children. A few Vietnamese girls danced with each other. Most of the young Vietnamese men stood at the edge of the dancing and watched.

After a while, a young Vietnamese took the microphone and announced that a group of Vietnamese musicians was going to play a few numbers and that the band from San Diego had agreed to lend their instruments for the performance.

The sight that followed was a stunner. The musicians, first off, were probably the only long-haired Vietnamese to be seen anywhere in camp—the genuine article, real freaks. And the music they played was as genuine as they looked, a mean, down-and-dirty hard-rock sound that was dead center on the spot where American rock was five or six years ago when it was singing the anthems of nihilism, stomp and revolution. The group, it turned out, was the Crazy Dog Band, probably the best-known rock group in South Vietnam, and the audience, Vietnamese and American, loved them. The crowd grew, and the cheers that went up when they finished seemed to transport the asphalt parking lot back in time toward a vision of rock festivals or the grateful audience of the Grateful Dead on a far-gone afternoon in Golden Gate Park.

Afterward, the Crazy Dog Band retired to quarters, Area 2, Tent 15. Nguyen Huu Nang, the bass player and

leader, sat on the edge of his cot and lit up a Winston. The band, he said, had left Saigon together, by way of helicopters and the USS Okinawa. There were Nang's father, some brothers and sisters and the band. They left their instruments behind. There was no choice but to leave, Nang said. The Viet Cong probably wouldn't have much use for a band whose favorite numbers were "Street Fightin' Man" and "Subterranean Homesick Blues."

No, said Nang, as yet they had no sponsors. And they had very little money. Nang grinned. He would wait.

"Know any good agents?" he said.

L. A. TIMES SECT.

PAGE

1 (cont)

DATE

8 June 75

Refugees Bring Back Old Racist Memories

One in a series

By **RUBY SEXTON**

Vietnamese students from area colleges saw Marines playing ball with laughing youngsters as they wandered through the Camp Pendleton refugee center in its first confused days, before visiting restrictions were tightened.

They also heard the word "gooks" bandied about and were sensitive to its racist connotations.

For other Asian-Americans, it is part of an old story, bringing back memories of restrictive laws, immigration quotas, the internment of Japanese residents during World War II and references to Chinese laborers as "Chinks."

COMMUNITIES HELP

The established Asian communities stand ready to welcome and assist the refugees from war-torn Vietnam and Cambodia in their resettlement in this country.

At the same time, representatives of Asian groups are concerned that the hostility of some Americans to the influx of the approximately 130,000 Indochinese refugees is fanning the coals of racist feeling toward all Orientals.

Statements such as that

from Rep. Burt L. Talcott, R-Salinas, that there are "too many Orientals" here represent the rekindling of an old racism, according to Vernon T. Yoshioka, chairman of the Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC).

"That kind of feeling is still latent among some individuals," said Yoshioka, who also is president of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL).

MOSTLY JAPANESE

He said the only Orientals in Talcott's district are Japanese whose families have been there 50 years or more. Most have long been established in agriculture and related businesses, he added.

Talcott later modified his statement by saying that he was just passing along what the people in his district were saying.

The Japanese in particular can identify with the plight of the refugees, housed in crowded temporary quarters and uncertain what the future holds for them.

RUMORS CIRCULATED

The JACL's national weekly newspaper, The Pacific Citizen, referred in a recent lead story to the "occasional overtones of racism" in the public reaction to the arrival of the Vietnamese.

Commenting that rumors and much misinformation are being circulated about the refugees, the paper said their numbers are not great in comparison with previous refugee groups.

"But recession and public distaste of the United States experience in and with Vietnam — not to mention anti-Oriental traits — are likely to make this the most difficult resettlement," the newspaper predicted.

The feeling that excessive numbers of Asians are coming to the United States is not really valid, said Peope Balista, executive director of the Council of Filipino-American Organizations.

"If they look at statistics, there are more Europeans than Asians coming into this country," he said. Describing the Vietnamese as hard workers, he said they eventually will earn their own way in the mainstream of American society.

CONCERN FELT

The Filipino community feels a concern for them as fellow Asians, he said. Although their cultures and languages differ, one cultural characteristic they share is a feeling of strong family solidarity, he added.

"They should be entitled to
(Continued on B-4, Col. 1)

B-4 THE SAN DIEGO UNION

Friday, June 6, 1975

Refugees Bring Back Old Racist Memories In U.S.

(Continued from B-1) at least in part racist when they hear objections to bringing the Vietnamese here.

the help that we Americans have extended to other refugees like the Hungarian and Cuban people," he said. "In the long run I positively hold that they will be an asset to this country."

James S. Fukumoto, executive director of the county Human Relations Commission, expressed concern about the developing racial tensions in letters to U. S. Sens. Alan Cranston and John Tunney, both California Democrats.

COMMENTS

Noting that there have been "derogatory comments with respect to the Asian heritage" of the newcomers, he issued a plea for racial harmony and asked the senators' help in calling forth "the best in the American tradition of welcoming refugees in this emergency."

Beverly Yip, UPAC administrative coordinator, said people who have experienced racism, as those of the Oriental community have, wonder if the reaction is not

The response to the Hungarian and Cuban refugees was entirely different, she pointed out. About 40,000 Hungarians fled here in the late '50s and about 675,000 Cuban refugees were resettled here under a federally financed program during the '60s.

HISTORY OF RACISM

Citing this country's long history of racism, Mrs. Yip said, "We just don't want to see these new immigrants coming in having to go through the same kinds of learning experiences other Asians have gone through." She added that most Anglos are not aware of the differences among various Asians "and they tend to lump us all together."

The apprehension about a resurgence of anti-Oriental feelings may be a factor in the reluctance of some Asians to be quoted about the Vietnamese — even though nearly all those interviewed

expressed concern and compassion for the refugees.

Yoshioka said UPAC recognizes that the transition of these people from the status of refugees to productive members of American society will take time and resources.

"We appreciate the concern of some individuals about the impact of this sudden immigration upon our economy and society, but we need to address these concerns from a rational and educated standpoint," he said in a UPAC position paper.

"The hysterical manner in which potential problems have been portrayed is reminiscent of the racial hysteria which led to the internment of the Japanese-American citizens in 1942.

"We feel that every effort must be made to minimize these added complications for the new immigrants."

Next — Asian community plans to help Vietnamese refugees through adjustment period.

Vietnamese, American Cultures Study Planned

San Diego Union Staff Dispatch

SAN MARCOS — The Vietnamese and American cultures will be compared and discussed during a one-day conference tomorrow at Palomar College.

The conference is sponsored by the county Department of Education and is coordinated by the college's Bilingual Education Department.

Bilingual Education Department chairman Janet Hafner said, "We believe cultural diversity is a blessing in the U.S. It allows for individuality and uniqueness rather than conformity."

She said the conference is planned so community members can better understand the Vietnamese culture, and so understand the adjustments that Vietnamese refugees will have to make in becoming American citizens.

"Within a year or so," Mrs. Hafner said, "members of the Vietnamese culture will be living in our area, attending schools here and working in the community. The information gained at the conference could benefit both cultures."

She said the conference is aimed

at the community in general, and school systems in particular.

Registration will be from 9 to 9:30 a.m. The general session at 9:30 a.m. will feature talks by Adolphus McGee, member of the ad hoc task force on Southeast Asian Refugees, state Department of Education, and Thomas Weir, Interagency Task Force at Camp Pendleton.

They will be followed by Huynh Cam Tu, a career consultant, will speak on the Vietnamese language and culture.

Workshop sessions during the afternoon will include one led by Dr. Do Ba Khe, former vice minister for education in South Vietnam.

Representatives from the county and Los Angeles County Human Relations commissions will discuss "Basic Human Relations Considerations for Incoming Refugees." Grace P. Blaskowski Asian Community Affairs Officer, county Human Resources Agency, together with a representative from the Union of Pan Asian Communities of San Diego, will discuss, "Community Resources to Assist School Districts in Dealing with Refugees."

Refugee Process May Take Years

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — It may take two years at the present pace to process all Vietnamese refugees out of federal camps, Ken Monroe, of the Vietnamese-American Association, said Thursday.

Monroe said the processing is delayed by "general bungling" and that a high ranking State Department official conceded to him that even by the department's estimate, it will take more than a year to get security clearances and sponsors for the refugees.

Monroe urged speedy security clearances for the "thousands of good, deserving Vietnamese people who were not involved in all the the political ramifications of their country," particularly those who worked for American firms.

The emphasis in security checks should be on the "street people who took any means possible to be the first ones in this country," he said.

Meanwhile, a Southern California group, the Christ Church of Parapsychological Research, offered to turn over nearly 1 million acres of desert land to refugees.

Riles Urges U.S. Refugee Aid

SACRAMENTO (UPI)—State schools chief Wilson Riles said Thursday it would be the "height of unfairness and irresponsibility" for the federal government to refuse to provide money for education of Vietnamese refugees in California.

"We have an obligation to educate these Vietnamese children and they will be educated," said the state superintendent of public instruction.

"But I do not feel that California property taxpayers should be saddled with a totally unexpected bill for the costs of sending these children to school," he said.

"It would be the height of unfairness and irresponsibility for the federal government to fly thousands of refugees into California and then announce that the state must pay their education costs."

No Viet Refugee Funds for Schoolchildren, U.S. Says

BY PAUL HOUSTON
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—The Ford Administration said Thursday there are virtually no federal funds available to reimburse local governments for educating children of resettled Vietnamese refugees.

Moreover, said Caspar W. Weinberger, secretary of health, education and welfare, no more funds will be sought from Congress because the Administration believes the expense is a local responsibility.

Members of the California congressional delegation immediately protested. They said that they thought assurances had been given in congressional hearings and during debate on the \$405 million refugee aid bill last month that substantial funds were being provided for reimbursement.

Sen. Alan Cranston and Rep. Edward R. Roybal, California Democrats, said they would draft an amendment to provide the necessary

funds and seek to attach it to some bill at "the first appropriate opportunity."

"The Administration may not ask for the money, but we're sure as hell going to ask for it," Roybal said angrily.

Wilson Riles, California's superintendent of public instruction, has vigorously lobbied Weinberger and California lawmakers for reimbursement funds.

Riles claims that property taxpayers

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Los Angeles Times ★

REFUGEE CHILDREN

Continued from First Page

ers face an "intolerable burden" if they have to pay the normal and special educational expenses of refugees settling in the state—about \$8 million a year if the state absorbs only 10% of the refugees.

Many California congressmen believe that, despite government efforts to scatter refugees evenly around the country, the number who settle in the state will be far above 10% because the Vietnamese will be attracted by California's already large Oriental population.

Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.), chairman of the California congressional delegation, called Weinberger's opposition to education aid "a breach of commitment" by the Administration.

He said that various federal officials, including L. Dean Brown, former director of the refugee task

force, had "implied" that the government would pick up all costs of resettlement, including education.

"This is an effort to jettison that responsibility and see that it falls on the backs of local taxpayers," Moss said, "and I'll be damned if we'll let it happen."

Moss heads a bipartisan group of California congressmen that will meet on the problem today with Julia Taft, new director of the task force.

Weinberger, former California director of finance, said at a breakfast with reporters that "the fears about the impact of this group (of refugees) are greatly exaggerated."

He said that a recent report showed that only 600 of 6,000 refugees who had left Camp Pendleton settled in California.

"A great many of these people speak English very well," the secre-

tary said. "A great many are professional people."

He said the government will pick up all direct costs of resettlement involving such things as Medicare and welfare payments, "but we will not follow refugees into the various home communities and pay for services rendered by the community."

Only about \$2 million of the \$405 million appropriated by Congress for a 28-month period could be used to reimburse education expenses, he said. And even then there would have to be "a very, very large impact on a small school district," a highly unlikely prospect, he said.

There is an additional \$30 million available for education, but it is only for vocational training of family breadwinners, he said.

California lawmakers reacted with astonishment to this news because of the kind of answers they received in debate on the refugee aid bill.

Rep. Norman Y. Mineta (D-Calif.) recalled that he asked Rep. Otto E. Passman (D-La.), chairman of a

House appropriations subcommittee, "whether it was the intent of Congress to reimburse state and local government 100% of the costs for education."

Passman's answer, according to the Congressional Record, was, "That is absolutely correct."

Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr. (R-N.Y.), ranking Republican on a House judiciary subcommittee that conducted hearings on the bill, told Reps. George E. Danielson (D-Calif.) and Patsy T. Mink (D-Hawaii), "I can only guarantee . . . there will be the 100% HEW reimbursement to the state and local services, including education."

The chairman of the subcommittee, Rep. Joshua Eilberg (D-Pa.), qualified that a bit at the time, saying an HEW undersecretary had given "a positive assurance" during hearings that any school system with more than 10 refugee children would receive full reimbursement.

Eilberg said in an interview Thurs-

day that he had thought there were sufficient funds in the bill for education reimbursements, "but all HEW gave us were rough budget estimates. If more money is needed, I would vigorously support aiding any impacted areas."

During Senate debate, Cranston wanted to offer an amendment ordering HEW to come up with an education aid program. He said he withheld it after Sen. John Sparkman (D-Ala.), chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, assured him that the committee "expects" HEW to make sure that local communities "will not be adversely affected by the resettlement of refugees."

Cranston said in a statement Thursday, "The federal government has a clear responsibility—and Congress gave HEW the authority—to protect local property owners, in California and elsewhere, against having to bear an unexpected and unfair financial burden in educating Vietnamese refugee children."

Senate Staff Study Assails Refugee Plans as 'Sloppy'

BY GAYLORD SHAW
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—A congressional staff study warned Sunday that unless the Ford Administration changed its "sloppy, laissez-faire approach," it might be a year or more before all Vietnamese refugees were resettled.

The report, by Democratic staff members of a Senate judiciary subcommittee headed by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), said that of the 130,000 Vietnamese refugees under U.S. control about 80% "are still in camps awaiting processing for resettlement."

"What should have been an orderly, expeditious and relatively straightforward procedure for processing refugees has turned into a nightmare for officials and refugees alike," the study said.

The document, an outgrowth of subcommittee hearings and visits by staff members to refugee centers at Camp Pendleton and elsewhere, con-

tains the sharpest criticism to date of the government's efforts to resettle the refugees generated by the fall of South Vietnam to the Communists more than two months ago.

It contains also a series of recommendations, including:

—A transfer to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare of the primary responsibility for all activities relating to the resettlement of refugees. The responsibility now rests with a task force under the supervision of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

—The early transfer of substantial numbers of refugees from temporary quarters on Guam to reception centers in the United States, with additional reception centers to be opened to care for these refugees.

—An immediate move by the Administration to clearly state its policy

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REPORT ON REFUGEES

Continued from First Page

for reimbursing state and local governments for the costs of refugee resettlement.

—Enactment by Congress of Legislation to change the refugees' immigration status from that of parolees to permanent resident aliens.

—Prompt federal action to supply funds to voluntary agencies to speed the resettlement of refugees.

In calling for urgent action by the Ford Administration, the subcommittee staff report contended that "the resettlement program is scarcely off the ground."

"Sponsorships are lagging. Bottlenecks persist. Voluntary agencies are too often ignored. Federal resources for this federal program have barely been tapped," the report said in warning that the situation "threatens a human tragedy of alarming proportions."

The subcommittee staff sharply criticized the federal task force established by the President to oversee refugee aid. It charged that the task force "has been characterized by a failure of leadership, poor organization, inadequate planning and belated decision making."

But it praised the military, saying that "the services have performed

their task extraordinarily well . . . The commanding officers at bases all along the line have moved compassionately and effectively in receiving the refugees and in providing food, shelter and needed health care."

In reporting on bottlenecks in processing, the subcommittee staff said that "a sloppy, laissez-faire approach marks the . . . program."

"For all intents and purposes," it said, "the resettlement program has not really begun. Most refugees who have been resettled to date have merely joined family members in this country. The real refugees still sit in the camps."

Although "some slight progress" has been reported in the rate in which refugees are moving out, the report said, "it will take more than six months to empty the camps" under the current rate of processing. During the first week of June, refugees were leaving camps for resettlement at a rate of 600 to 650 a day.

The staff added that some officials "estimate that the time frame will more likely be up to a year or more."

The subcommittee staff cautioned against "growing pressures" for federal officials to seek refugee sponsors among local service clubs and local municipalities.

"The danger of such a dumping

policy is that only the voluntary agencies have a proven record," it said, referring to the national organizations already enlisted to aid refugee resettlement.

It criticized the slow flow of federal funds to the volunteer agencies, saying:

Nothing symbolizes more the floundering of the White House and the task force than its inexcusable delay in making and implementing high priority decisions essential to the resettlement of the refugees . . . than the muddle and delay and confusion which has surrounded the need for the government to provide urgent funds to the voluntary agencies."

The subcommittee staff did not specifically recommend where additional relocation centers should be established in the United States, but it said action was needed now because "the growing delay in onward movement is holding some 40,000 refugees in tent cities on Guam and Wake Island, vulnerable to the increasing chance of devastating tropical storms and typhoons."

In a preface to the 50-page report, Sen. Kennedy said the resettlement program was manageable—"in fact, the numbers are small compared to the 400,000 regular emigrants we absorb into our society each year."

Refugee Opponent

I can sympathize with the Vietnamese and have no objection to a reasonable percentage of them being taken in as refugees, but for us to take in all the fishermen, farm and land people who are panicking and running is absolutely ridiculous.

They have no training, little education, and will not be happy here in a foreign land with no advantages, a language barrier and inevitable

homesickness. They belong in their own country which needs them for rebuilding.

I don't understand why they didn't use the scorched earth policy when they left instead of letting everything fall into the hands of the North Vietnamese. Of course, it didn't cost them anything, we paid for all of it, and now they are putting a terrific burden on our government which can't take care of our own people. Thousands will no doubt end up on welfare, which is already overloaded and mismanaged.

Many of our old people are poor and hungry and live on dog food to survive and thousands of our orphans are not adopted.

Our taking in high government officials and generals who have deserted their people and who, no doubt, stashed away much money and became wealthy during their years of corrupt government is a disgrace and an insult to the memory of our men who died over there for nothing.

If our President is so ready to keep giving our money to foreign countries at the taxpayers' expense, then I feel that our people should be able to demand that he and every elected and appointed Republican and Democrat be forced to take a cut in pay, halve their fringe benefits, cut their pensions and remove all tax loopholes. They could use that money (which would be in the millions of dollars) to give to foreign countries.

ANGELA BAILEY
San Juan Capistrano

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ANGELA BAILEY
San Juan Capistrano



Herald-Examiner photo by Linda Brundin

Que Nguyen and Tri Minh Dam are two of the 3,000 Vietnamese students in U.S. trying to cope with war's aftermath.

'Where Is My Family?'

By LINDA BERNIER
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

College commencement exercises this June will be missing a few expected graduates. And next semester's class also might be without some of this year's enrollees.

For many of the 3,000 South Vietnamese students in American schools, the Communist takeover of their homeland not only cut off financial support for their education but brought worries of locating families and supporting them while the students adapt to a new and permanent life in America.

Just how many of the students' families made it out of the country before Saigon capitulated is not known, but a survey among the 58 Vietnamese undergraduates at Long Beach State showed that about 25 per cent of them have received word that their families managed to flee.

Tri Minh Dam, 22, a senior studying economics at California State University, Los Angeles, stopped going to classes several weeks ago. "I just can't get my mind to study when I don't know where my family is," he said. "They could be on a boat somewhere or still in Vietnam. If I only knew they were safe."

Tri's last communication with his family was several months ago, after he learned his brother was killed by the Communists. His father and mother, two brothers, and a sister remain. The father was an army major.

"Funny. I used to fight with my little sister all the time. Now I don't know if I'll ever see her again," he said, averting his usually laughing eyes to hide his emotion.

Tri's girlfriend, Que Nguyen, 21, also stopped going to her classes at a private business college. She was too worried and busy — going to the Immigration office and making plans for supporting her mother, two sisters, and two brothers who recently arrived at Camp Pendleton. Her father, a former officer in the South Vietnamese Army, is still in Vietnam.

"But all people tell me is to wait. Wait for sponsors for my family so they can leave the camp. And wait for resident alien cards to be able to work," Que said in frustration.

According to Joseph Sureck, Los Angeles district director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, "everything here is waiting and backlogs." It can take at least six months to get a resident alien card, he said.

Like many of the Vietnamese studying in

American colleges, Tri and Que received funds from the middle and upper-middle class families back home.

As the situation became more difficult for their families in Vietnam, however, many students took part-time jobs — often illegally without work permits — to support their studies, Tri said.

Que was lucky to find work waitressing in her aunt's Vietnamese restaurant in Hollywood, where she met Tri.

They have to live very economically to pay for the annual \$1,400 tuition fees at the state colleges and books and living expenses, said a school official.

Tri is lucky to be living with the American family who sponsored him in 1969 as a foreign exchange student in high school. Other Vietnamese students crowd four and five in an apartment and have difficulty finding work in the tight job market.

"Some of my friends have had a lot of funny jobs here — doing public relations, washing dishes, selling cosmetics, and processing film," said Tri.

Wearing jeans and speaking a slang-filled, perfect English, Tri looks and sounds like many Asian-American students, which would

(Continued on Page 3)

make it difficult to tell he was a Vietnamese refugee.

Immigration officials say working papers will be easier to obtain now that the situation in Vietnam has made it impossible for these students to receive funds from home. In an emergency they can be issued within a day's time.

What will not be easy is supporting a family and continuing school. And Que says to get a good job a college education is important. "We have some problems though," she said. "One sister has a broken hip. A brother has tuberculosis. My mother is a shy little woman who never had a job. And my younger brother is still too young and shy to work."

"But my other sister is not shy. She's a real American. So between the two of us we should be able to support the family."

Immediate plans for Tri and Que are finding work and finishing their education. Like many Vietnamese students, they hope the government will provide loans and grants for their studies.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare, is planning special grants for those Vietnamese students studying in U.S. colleges when Saigon fell. Details of the amount of funds and how they are to be distributed will be announced later this week.

Only students with permanent resident status are eligible for the usual HEW loans, which amount on the average to \$690 a year per student.

Dr. David Kagan, state university dean of student affairs, hopes the Immigration Service will grant emergency permanent resident status to Vietnamese refugees. This would not only qualify them for federal assistance but would mean that as California residents they pay no tuition at state universities and colleges. And despite the difficult road ahead Que feels hopeful about the future.

"In Vietnam I was always worried and tense, not knowing what the future would bring. Here starting a new life might be difficult but eventually things will be all right."

In the meantime how do Tri and Que spend their time?

"Dating," said Que with a smile.

"Looking for jobs and chasing the girls," said Tri jokingly.

But more seriously he added, "Sometimes Americans are offended because we Vietnamese seem to be always laughing and joking. But we've been suffering a long time. The only thing we can do is smile."

Refugee Plan A Shambles, Senate Told

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Ford administration's program of processing and resettling the 131,000 South Vietnamese refugees under American control has become a "shambles," Senate investigators said Sunday.

"What should have been an orderly, expeditious and relatively straightforward procedure for processing Indochina refugees has turned into a nightmare for officials and refugees alike," investigators for the Senate subcommittee on refugees said in a report to the panel chairman, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

The investigators said there are indications that at the current rate it may take more than a year to vacate refugee camps.

They said the backlog of refugees still on Guam awaiting transport to the United States is posing serious concerns as to potential health problems and fears that the refugees will be vulnerable in the approaching typhoon season.

The processing of the refugees, the report said, "came to a virtual standstill during the month of May and is still stuck in a mire of clearances."

As of the first week of June, 102,314 refugees or 80 per cent of the 131,000 who came under American control remained in camps to be processed and resettled, the report said.

A slight improvement occurred during that week and refugees began moving out of the camps at a rate of 600 to 650 a day, which would mean it

would still take a minimum of six months to clear the camps if processing continued at that pace, the report said.

"More likely, significant numbers of refugees will be remaining in camps for a longer period of time — in fact some officials estimate that the time frame may be up to a year or more," the report said.

The report said President Ford's plan to evacuate an unspecified number of South Vietnamese "seems to have been less of a plan, than it was a vague intention, barely stated."

As events have shown whatever plan existed was implemented badly, plagued with disorganization, and undertaken with little command control of the field, it said.

In the rush of events nearly half of the Vietnamese who eventually came under U.S. control represented parts of the population the United States never intended to evacuate, including farmers, small shopkeepers, street vendors, common soldiers, and in one case, an entire fishing village, it said.

The report had general praise for the military services' part of the operation but said the civilian refugee task force is responsible for a processing backlog that begins in the "temporary" refugee camps on Guam and is evident also in an apparent lack of cooperation with American civilian relief organizations

(Continued on Page A-2 Col. 8)

Refugee Plan A Muddle

(Continued from Page A-1)

trying to resettle refugees in the United States.

"There is no clearer evidence of this today than the shambles which the refugee processing and resettlement program has become — with a backlog of refugees, which threatens the humane resettlement of people in the shortest period of time," the report said.

On Guam, it said this has resulted in a bottleneck for some 40,000 refugees held 20 or more to tents which are beginning to show signs of heavy use and weather.

Refugee Processing Called 'Nightmare'

Senate Probers Report

Related story — A-4

By Associated Press

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'STILL STUCK'

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NO COMMENT

At Camp Pendleton, a spokesman for Nicholas Thorn, senior civil service coordinator for the refugee camps, said they have not seen the report and cannot comment on news releases nor speak for other areas than Camp Pendleton.

"But we are batting better than .500 and working to step up the numbers released with background to make a transition to life in America," Lt. Col. Arthur Brill, Marine Corps press officer, said. "We have received 30,796 refugees and released 15,438. We have released about 400 a day and are stepping this up to 500. They also have been coming in faster the past few days. We received more than 900 yesterday."

Refugees Expected To Need Long-Range Assistance

Last in a series

By RUBY SEXTON

The typical American supermarket doesn't carry such items as rice papers, rice sticks, imported anchovy sauce, fish drippings and dried black fungus.

So the first attempt by the Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees to reach out to the resources of the Asian community may come as the resettled immigrants begin hunting for stores where they can purchase familiar foods.

However, the established Asian communities are prepared to offer many other forms of long-range assistance to the refugees.

SENSITIVE TO NEEDS

Asian-American leaders feel they are sensitive to the needs and apprehensions of the Indochina evacuees, and are in a position to help because they have faced similar problems in the past.

Attention is focused now on the plight of the refugees in their crowded temporary quarters at Camp Pendleton, torn by anxiety about the future and concern about family members left behind.

Other problems also lie ahead once they are matched with American sponsors and are relocated. This is where the Asian community probably can be of most use, said Beverly Yip, administrative coordinator of the Union of Pan Asian Communities here.

ANTAGONISMS END

UPAC is a coalition of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Indian, Guamanian and Samoan organizations. It enjoys a cooperative relationship with the Council of Filipino-American Organizations, which represents the San Diego area's largest Asian ethnic group.

Over the years, various antagonisms have existed among some of these groups on their native soil. However,

they themselves encountered in the long and sometimes painful course of their assimilation into American society.

UPAC is promoting the establishment of an Asian resource center, in cooperation with the national Pacific Asian Coalition, to give the refugees access to Asian community services and resources on a nationwide basis after they leave the camp.

FACE DIFFICULTIES

Vernon Yoshioka, UPAC chairman and president of the Japanese American Citizens League, said it is important for the refugees to know there are other Asians in the community and to feel there is someone to turn to if they have problems.

Even those refugees who belong to the extended families of Vietnamese married to American citizens will experience serious difficulties within a few years unless they find jobs or economic support, Mrs. Yip said.

Mixed marriages are difficult enough without the added problem of supporting relatives, she said, and the burden of the extended family "will create some tension in that family group."

Other marital problems may develop later, as was often the case with Japanese or Korean wives of servicemen, she added.

These problems were due in part to the dependency status of the wives, many of whom were unable to get jobs because of poor English or lack of skills, she said.

The Asian community is offering the refugees the help of its social services, job training and employment programs, health and medical clinics, educational and cultural programs and the activities of its community centers — the kind of welcome an established group can provide.

Asian leaders hope they can help the newcomers

they themselves encountered in the long and sometimes painful course of their assimilation into American society.

They have been through discriminatory immigration and citizenship laws, low wages and job exploitation, housing restrictions, racial hostility and the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Their experiences make them alert to the dangers, they see in the opposition of some Americans to the Vietnamese resettlement program. They also are conscious of the cultural adjustments that will be required of this new group of Asian immigrants.

MOST DOING WELL

Among the established Asian immigrant groups, there is a general feeling of the succeeding generations that most are doing well, that they have acculturated successfully, Mrs. Yip said.

Although there is "kind of a denial that there are problems," this is not always the case, she said.

For instance, she noted, the more prosperous younger generations of Chinese-Americans left San Diego's downtown for the suburbs.

Many have been surprised to learn, through the work of the Chinese Social Service Center, that there is a group of "sojourners" living solitary, poverty-stricken lives in the central city area.

FAMILIES BARRED

The sojourners were Chinese who were permitted to enter the United States to work but were not permitted to bring their wives and families with them, Mrs. Yip explained.

In their old age, they have no younger family members to give them the care, respect and support that is a part of their cultural tradition.

No one knows what comparable problems may develop years or generations later for the Indochinese refugees.

In fact, one of the chief problems right now is the lack of information about

them, according to James S. Fukumoto, executive director of the county Human Relations Commission.

RESETTLEMENT AID

The commission has asked to be allowed to assist in their resettlement, he said, but no information is available about where those who have been released are going or what their educational and other needs will be.

"We're dealing in the dark about the numbers, the distribution, the locations, about the backgrounds and profiles of these families," Fukumoto said.

The first evacuees were well-educated and came primarily from the upper and middle classes and the professions. Many were the wives or dependents of American citizens. Many spoke English.

But the later groups are expected to be farmers, fishermen and others from lower socioeconomic levels and with vastly different needs, Fukumoto pointed out.

The human relations director praised the accomplishments of the State Department, military personnel and volunteers in setting up the refugee center on short notice and providing facilities to care for the sudden influx of refugees.

"That is what I call holding the flesh together," he said. "The second phase is holding the spirit together."

The latter will be much more difficult and will take more planning and effort, he said. For example, school systems must prepare for the Vietnamese, although youngsters no one knows how many children are coming and where they will be.

SERVICES INVALUABLE

Fukumoto said UPAC's services can be invaluable in determining educational needs, coordinating volunteer programs during the lengthy adjustment period and helping the refugees to bridge the cultural gap. A nucleus of Vietnamese community organization already exists in the San Diego area, in the Vietnam

Children's Aid Foundation. The group includes Vietnamese students attending area colleges and the Vietnamese wives of Americans.

The wives began taking part in student functions because they felt the need to talk in their own language and to have ties with others from their homeland, Mrs. Yip said.

CONTINUING NEED

She feels that an association with others who share the same language and cultural background will be a continuing need as the Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees are dispersed to new homes throughout the country.

The Vietnam Children's Aid Foundation originally was formed to help orphans in South Vietnam. A spokesman, Vietnamese student Cathy Huong Do, said the group will change its name to represent the Vietnamese community in the San Diego and Los Angeles areas.

Organizations Open Arms To Refugees

By **CLAIRE COX**

Copley News Service

NEW YORK — While people across the country are arguing about whether Indo-Chinese refugees should be accepted as new ingredients in the American melting pot, religious organizations of all faiths are opening their arms to the new immigrants.

Many of the religious groups are simply doing what comes naturally as a result of their support of other enforced migrations of recent decades — Hungarians, Czechs, Cubans, West African Asians.

While acknowledging that the new wave has some controversial aspects that the earlier migrations did not, religious leaders are urging their fellow Americans to accept President Ford's advice to stick to the national tradition of welcoming all oppressed people to their shores.

PRAISES FORD

Dr. David Hyatt, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, was among those who praised Mr. Ford for his leadership in "insuring that compassion and brotherhood are the hallmarks of our policy."

"Resentment and hostility are at variance with the founding spirit of independence and freedom," Hyatt said. "Our nation's commitment and responsibility cannot in good conscience be repudiated in this time of human despair."

Those comments set the tone for the general reaction of Protestants, Roman Catholics and Jews alike as their adherents across the country volunteered housing, food, clothing and jobs for refugees who arrived with little more than the clothing on their backs.

Congress and others to raise such questions as: "Are the new arrivals victims or profiteers, lovers of freedom or technicians of torture?"

To this the magazine responded that prolonged debate along those lines would be wasteful, and it called for a priority on the task of filling the human needs of 150,000 refugees rather than wrangling over the equity of their evacuation.

ASSISTANCE URGED

Jewish leaders, speaking out of a long history of persecution and flight, also called on all Americans to welcome and help the new arrivals in every way possible.

"This would be in the finest traditions of America, which has always been hospitable to those fleeing to its

shores," declared Elmer L. Winter, president of the American Jewish Committee.

Winter proposed that the United Nations urge the Vietnamese and Cambodian governments to respect the right of every person to leave and seek asylum in countries of their choice.

The Southern Baptist Convention, the largest Protestant body, with 12.5 million members, is working independently and also through Church World Service, an agency of the National Council of Churches. Leaders of the denomination feel that Christians must respond to the urgent needs of the refugees and have instructed

several Baptist agencies to help resettle 10,000 of the newcomers.

The Committee on Relief of the second largest Protestant body, the United Methodist Church, has appealed for assistance from local congregations in finding new homes for Southeast Asian

refugees. Specifically, the Methodists have accepted immediate responsibility for helping 60 Cambodians and up to 500 Vietnamese.

Lutheran World Relief, the National Lutheran Council and individual Lutheran denominations have pitched in enthusiastically to help in the crisis.

NOTES CRITICISM

Taking the criticism into account, America, the independent Catholic weekly, said in an editorial that the newest immigrants "rub up against some raw nerves in the American psyche that are peculiar to the present situation. They are a reminder of a war we would rather forget."

America noted that the lingering bitterness of war had caused members of the

Refugee Schooling Legislation Urged

BY PAUL HOUSTON
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—A bipartisan group of nine California congressmen said after meeting with Ford Administration officials Friday that new legislation obviously is required if local governments are to be reimbursed for educating Vietnamese refugee children.

The congressmen said that they had thought substantial reimbursement funds were included in a \$405 million refugee aid bill voted last month by Congress.

However, officials of the Administration's refugee task force confirmed a report Thursday by Caspar W. Weinberger, secretary of health, education and welfare, that only a tiny fraction of the money has been earmarked for education.

As much as \$588 million might be needed for a 5-year federal program of reimbursing state education funds and local school treasuries, according to projections distributed here Friday by aides to Wilson Riles, California superintendent of public instruction.

Task force officials and congressmen were told that California-sponsored surveys taken at the Camp Pendleton refugee center indicate that nearly one-third of the refugees eventually will settle in California.

"It's obvious we're going to have to get out a new bill" appropriating more money and making clear it is to be spent for educational reimbursement, Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.) said after a closed meeting in his office of task force officials and other legislators.

Moss said he thought such a bill would be "salable" not only to Congress but to the Administration. He noted the support of key committee chairmen and said that former task force director L. Dean Brown had made a "commitment" to pick up education costs.

However, the California congressmen who met with the new task force director, Julia Taft, and her aides expressed general dissatisfaction with what they heard.

"They won't acknowledge that the federal government owes it to local school districts" to pay the education tab, said Rep. Norman Y. Mineta (D-San Mateo). "I heard so much bull . . . today, they ought to rename the task force."

Rep. Jim Lloyd (D-West Covina) said that not until Rep. John H. Rousselot (R-San Marino) told Mrs. Taft about the problems facing local property taxpayers "did it penetrate her head that having even one (Vietnamese) pupil was important to us."

Moss said a bill would not be introduced until task force officials have had another chance to consider the Californians' position and perhaps endorse it at a public meeting with the entire congressional delegation next week.

Mrs. Taft told reporters that of the \$405 million appropriated by Congress, \$305 million is being used to pay for evacuation and temporary settlement at processing centers.

At least \$80 million is to pay for medical care, welfare payments and other direct costs after resettlement, leaving only \$20 million at most for education. Weinberger has said that most of that will be used for adult vocational training, with only about \$2 million available for reimbursing school districts that are "extremely impacted" by a refugee influx.

Riles said Friday that, assuming the accuracy of surveys showing that 32% of the 130,000 refugees will settle in California, \$188 million will be needed over the next five years to pay for basic and special education for children, adult education, vocational education and diagnostic services.

He said the costs would decline from \$64 million the first year to \$12.5 million the fifth year. His estimates are based on such one-year figures as \$1,400 per child for basic education and \$400 per child for bilingual and other special education.

"We want school districts reimbursed for all out-of-pocket expenses," said Rep. Carlos J. Moorhead (R-Glendale) after the meeting in Moss' office. However, he said, he thought federal reimbursement for five years is "a little too long."

Rep. Robert J. Lagomarsino (R-Ojai) said he supported full reimbursement.

Others attending the meeting were Democrats Lionel Van Deerlin of San Diego, Edward R. Roybal of Los Angeles and Harold T. Johnson of Roseville.

COSTS EXPECTED TO EXCEED \$36 MILLION**State Schools Brace For 20,000 Refugees****By HOMER CLANCE**

California will get an estimated 42,000 of the 130,000 Indochina refugees who now are coming into the United States, and 20,000 of these refugees will be ready for enrollment in local school districts by September, according to a top state school official.

Adolphus McGee, executive assistant to state Schools Supt. Wilson Riles, said the estimates are based on surveys of the refugees made by various government agencies.

One survey showed that 32 per cent of those who reach Camp Pendleton's "Little Saigon" prefer to remain in California, said McGee. That survey also shows that 48 per cent of the 130,000 total refugees are between 5 and 19 years of age, he said.

This indicates the 20,000 school-age children who local school districts could expect to receive when the new school year begins, McGee explained.

MONEY LACKING

The trouble is, no agency, federal, state or local, has provided any funds to meet the cost of educating the refugees, McGee said.

He said the estimated cost of education for one child per year is \$1,400. However, because of language problems, another \$400 is being added to education costs for the refugees, McGee said, for a total of \$1,800 per child per year.

For the initial refugees, the education cost alone will be at least \$36 million per year, McGee said.

The state school official said this is only the beginning because:

— The federal government has given up on its original plan to spread the refugees throughout the United States, based on job vacancies and sponsors. — There is nothing to prohibit the refugees from returning to California after spending one winter in a cold, snow-swept state.

EXPECTED BACK

Because of these factors, and because California's climate is somewhat close to the one the refugees have known in their homeland, the refugees are expected to return to California.

McGee said estimates range as high as 80,000 of the 130,000 who are being

brought into the United States will be residents of California within one or two years of their relocation.

The majority of the refugees, regardless of number, are expected to settle in California's urban areas such as Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego, McGee said.

SKILLS NEEDED

He pointed out that most of the Vietnam refugees who have arrived in this country are themselves urban residents.

Still another aspect — and cost of the refugee problem,

— are the adults who cannot speak English and who have no basic skills to obtain a job, McGee stated.

He said special funds would be needed for vocational education, and perhaps specific funds for language education. Again, no funds are currently available other than a small amount through "English as a second language" programs, he said.

Caspar W. Weinberger, secretary of health, education and welfare, said in Washington there are virtu-

ally no federal funds available to reimburse local governments for educating the refugees.

And no more funds will be sought because the Ford administration believes the expense is a local responsibility, Weinberger also said.

CALLED UNFAIR

Riles said in Sacramento that it would be the "height of unfairness and irresponsibility" for the federal government to refuse to provide money for refugees' education.

"We have an obligation to

educate these children and they will be educated," said Riles.

"But I do not feel that California property taxpayers should be saddled with a totally unexpected bill for the costs of sending these children to school."

County Schools Supt. Ted Dixon said a plan for a consortium of school districts around Camp Pendleton to offer summer programs to the refugees apparently is dead.

Again, the reason is lack of finances, said Dixon. He

added that a curriculum had been drawn up and Vietnamese teachers have been placed on computer for easy location.

But, apparently, plans for the summer ended when the Ford administration took the stance that none of the \$405 million approved for the refugee relocations for reimbursement for education.

Dixon has assigned a coordinator and other staff members to work with federal, state and volunteer agencies at Camp Pendleton.

COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
CODE PA
HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380

CAMP PENDLETON, CA.

REFUGEE CLIPS

10 June 1975

FD

In a good society, soldiers are the good guys

A steady stream of laudatory letters from private citizens has been trickling into the Headquarters Marine Corps mail room here, praising the marines' traditional professionalism in executing the vital evacuation of Vietnamese refugees from their country as it fell to Communist forces.

"Well done" messages from top-ranking U.S. military and key government officials add impressively to the count, giving the units which carried off the difficult task a shot in their already high morale.

Yet, one of the most poignant and incisive forms of praise for the marines' action came from ABC television's Harry Reasoner in a commentary aired over that network's evening news May 7. The commentary, printed here with permission of ABC News, not only commends the marines for their recent Vietnam role, but smoothly explains the need in any free society for such responsible and disciplined armed forces designed to enforce and protect the citizens.

"The sight of United States marines in combat situations in Phnom Penh and Saigon recently was to some people strangely comforting, particularly so since no real fighting developed.

"But it made me think of a concern I

PENDLETON SCOUT

An editorial in a weekly newspaper published at Fort Pendleton, Calif., by and for the marines of the base with U.S. government funds.

felt about the U.S. military in the '60s, concern less the divisiveness and frustrations of the Vietnam involvement should leave us with a crippled and fragmented fighting force.

"I remember trying to explain what I felt to a young man who, at the time, was violently anti-military.

"It was at the time when there was a disastrous strike of police and firemen in Montreal, leaving the city naked. What happened of course was that the Canadian Army moved in.

"Can you imagine, I asked, a situation like that without a responsible and disciplined army available.

"The point, I said, is that a society must have the means to enforce order and protect its citizens. In a good society, the soldiers are agents and the servants of the citizenry, they are the good guys, the white hats.

"The greatest danger of the Vietnam era was that this perception of them by the country and by themselves would change. In a democracy, an army that feels itself apart from and antagonistic to the population cannot be effective. And while a world without armies is a lovely dream, it's not here yet.

"We badly need a military that we can be proud of and that is proud of itself. It seems to me the services have made substantial progress since 1972 toward gaining that pride.

"We can hope that just as the memory of our failure in Indochina reached a new maturity in the nation, rather than to a continuing bitterness, the record of frustration that the services have to live with will make them wiser and stronger.

"In the meantime, on this mission of rescue and help, didn't those marines look good?"

Aid Asked For Refugees In Thailand

CAMP PENDLETON — Former Cambodian President Saukam Khoy' expressed concern for other Cambodian refugees here and in Thailand in a press conference before his departure from the Camp Pendleton refugee center yesterday.

Saying the 40,000 Cambodians who fled to Thailand are having a difficult time there, Khoy urged the American government either to bring them here or send them to Guam or some other U.S. territory.

The former president, who replaced Lon Nol in that

office during the last days before Cambodia fell to the Khmer Rouge, said an iron curtain has fallen over Phnom Penh since the takeover.

He asked that the Red Cross be permitted in so people can get information about family members there.

Khoy, 60, said he planned to spend two nights at the San Clemente Inn and then will visit in San Diego for several days before continuing on to Houston, where his family has a sponsor.

He described himself as very tired from the turmoil and fighting in his country

and said he plans to put his four sons to work so he can rest for awhile.

Khoy said he hopes the remaining refugees will be able to be processed out of the center faster than in the past and added that he is concerned about the future of the other Cambodians there.

The Cambodian refugees are being forgotten because

most Americans know more about Vietnam than about Cambodia, he said.

He also objected to the use of the word "Indochinese" to cover all the refugees. There are many differences between Vietnam and Cambodia and between the people of the two countries, he said.

Effort To Resettle Refugees In Latin Countries Begins

San Diego Union Staff Dispatch

CAMP PENDLETON

An international commission began work yesterday on a program which may result in the resettlement of some Indochinese refugees in Latin American countries.

Representatives of the Intergovernmental Commission on European Migration (ICEM) from Geneva, Switzerland, have begun a series of interviews with refugees about the program; Lt. Col. Art Brill, base public affairs officer, said.

The commission is also reviewing methods proposed by Nick Thorne, senior civil coordinator for the Interagency Task Force here, for the Latin American relocation.

MAY LEAVE SOON

If these procedures are approved, the first refugees will probably leave for Latin American nations in about two weeks, Brill said. No one knows how many may be resettled under the program, he added.

Meanwhile, a member of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Refugees responded angrily to a critical report on the refugee program from a Senate subcommittee headed by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

Mrs. Gaetana Enders of Washington, D. C., the only woman on the 17-member panel headed by John Eisenhower, toured the refugee center yesterday.

"I have one reaction," she said in a brief interview. "Has he ever been to this camp? ... I've been working for refugees for many years, and what I feel is that he should come and see the operation here."

The report said the resettlement program is badly

organized and some refugees may be in the camps more than a year.

ABOUT HALF GONE

Brill said he could speak only for Camp Pendleton but pointed out that 15,205 refugees, or approximately half those arriving here, have been processed and released to American relatives or sponsors.

Arrivals through yesterday totaled 31,536, leaving the number still in camp at 16,331.

Pendleton is the only center involved in the Latin American relocation effort, he said, and is also the only center sending refugees to Canada for resettlement. More than 500 have gone to Canada, he added.

Brill said there was a slow period for departures because of the time required for security clearances but that the processing has been stepped up because of improved procedures.

400 TO 500 DAILY

About 400 to 500 refugees have been processed out daily during the past two weeks, he said.

Another problem has been the lack of verified sponsors, he said. Any prospective sponsors turned out to be well-meaning persons who "just don't have the means to do it," he said.

PRIVATE AGENCIES

The sponsorship arrangements are being handled under contract by private agencies. There is a necessary time gap between the verification of sponsors and matching them with particular refugees, Brill added.

"This is a procedure for the good of all concerned," he said. "It must be a deliberate procedure."

Brill added that, although

the mission of the refugee center is to get people in and out as quickly as possible, the time spent here is not being wasted.

Classes are being offered in English, American government and American life, he said, and the refugees are beginning the adjustment to a strange culture and language, different traditions and a different pace of life.

"Those who stay are having an opportunity to adjust to this way of life," he added.

Refugees register as scouts

CAMP PENDLETON — Some 200 Vietnamese refugees with scouting backgrounds were registered with the Boy Scouts of America Sunday in a ceremony held near Refugee Camp No. 4.

The refugee boys and girls were inducted as the Lac Viet Scout Troop, named after the legendary first family that moved southward from China more than 4,000 years ago to found the Vietnamese nation.

The troop will be part of the San Luis Rey District, which includes scouts in the coastal area of San Diego County.

Trac Troung Trong, former national scout commissioner in Saigon, has been working to organize a scout troop among the refugees.

Don Drews of Penasquitos, a unit commissioner for the Palomar District who went to Camp Pendleton as a Red Cross volunteer, said he was "amazed to find out how many scouts we have out there."

Drews said he has been meeting with Trac to find out the needs of the Vietnamese scouts and what Palomar District could do to help them get started.

The Lac Viet troop, according to Trac, will assume responsibility for delivering mail and the camp newspaper, cleaning camp grounds and helping out at the library, dispensary and nursery school.

Scouts from the San Luis Rey District took part in the ceremonies Sunday, which were headed by Bill Gay of Leucadia, a Round Table commissioner from the district.

 ESCONDIDO TIMES ADVOCATE SECT B, PAGE 14 DATE: 9 June 76

Volunteers Needed

OCEANSIDE — The coordinator of Red Cross volunteers at Camp Pendleton's refugee camp issued a plea for volunteer physical therapists and English-speaking instructor-assistants today.

Mrs. C. Temple Murphy, American Red Cross Coordinator of Volunteers, explained the instructor-assistants will be assigned to support volunteer Vietnamese teachers at Camp Pendleton.

Their duties will include conducting language drills, providing assistance to individual students and helping teachers.

Experienced teachers or college student volunteers are preferred, Mrs. Murphy said.

She explained that art and music teachers and persons who have taught English overseas are especially needed to volunteer at the camp.

Registered physical therapists are also needed to assist physically handicapped children.

Therapists will work in the camp and in an infirmary with pediatric doctors and nurses. Prospective volunteers should call 722-2189.

General tells of last fight

By ROBERT DIETRICH
TRIBUNE Military Writer

CAMP PENDLETON —

The last commandant of the South Vietnamese marine corps says he knows of only 150 of his 14,000 men who escaped alive.

"The Communists hated and feared the marines," said Maj. Gen. Bui The Lam, 43, now an ordinary refugee among nearly 18,000 Indochinese here.

"My men were all volunteers trained by U.S. Marine advisers," he said. "Those that stayed behind are either dead, in jail, or, perhaps, still fighting."

Lam was one of the last senior officers to leave his country after a last-ditch fight near Vung Tau on the South China Sea coast near Saigon.

"The cease-fire order came from our government at 10 a.m. April 30. I obeyed and ordered my men to split. I know of only 150 who managed to get aboard a ship. I was with them."

Lam said the South Vietnamese armed forces were not beaten when the Saigon regime ordered the cease-fire.

"I blame the defeat on (former president) Nguyen Van Thieu. We had the aircraft, weapons and ammunition to continue fighting."

Although he did not indicate respect for Air Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky, Lam said he would have sided with Ky if the marshal succeeded in overthrowing Thieu.

"I would have followed anyone who opposed Thieu," he said.

Lam voiced bitterness at Thieu's commands which ordered withdrawal of the elite South Vietnamese marines from positions along the Demilitarized Zone followed by a series of further rapid withdrawals which placed them north and east of Saigon.

Lam's parents, wife and three children were evacuated three days before the Saigon surrender.

"They, like me, were on the Communist execution list."

U.S. Marine Corps commandant Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., personally helped Lam locate his family sent here from Guam two weeks ago. Lam arrived Wednesday night.

In other refugee developments, Michael Stevens, a U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare official here, said reports that no federal funds are available to subsidize school districts with large concentrations of refugee students are inaccurate.

"Grants will be made for transitional education assistance and we are working on formulas for impact aid such as that provided school districts with large numbers of children of military personnel and federal civil service employees," Stevens said.

The Mexican government, meanwhile was reported by U.S. officials here, considering an offer to resettle a number of refugees.

Sixteen other Latin American nations yesterday extended resettlement invitations to the 70,000 refugees here and in three other holding camps in the U.S.

'Little Saigon'—Another Misperception

'Vietnamese Refugees Recognize Their Predicament Better Than Their Hosts'

BY JONATHAN KIRSCH

"Our Saigon desk... they eat high-class rather than fish sauce and rice in the doorway of a crowded Quonset hut at Camp Pendleton. His voice rose dramatically: "We cannot forget Nuoc Mam."

Nuoc Mam? Is it the name of a Vietnamese national hero, I wondered, or a historic shrine, or perhaps one of the broad boulevards of Saigon? No, he said in mournful tones, *Nuoc Mam* is fish sauce.

A few yards away, I saw a Vietnamese family of three generations clustered around a feast of rice cakes and braised chicken under an open-sided tent ordinarily used as a Protestant chapel. A visiting U.S. Navy lieutenant and his Vietnamese wife had brought a few Vietnamese dishes into camp for their newly arrived relatives. "The marines serve them short-grain rice," the bearded officer said softly. "After all the years in Vietnam, don't they realize the Vietnamese eat only long-grain rice?"

Far more is involved than culinary taste. Even now—even after the expenditure of 15 years, 50,000 American lives and hundreds of billions of American dollars in Vietnam—we do not fully understand the hungers and appetites of a people whose fate is still bound to ours. The failure of Marine cooks to provide fish sauce and long-grain rice, despite the presence of Vietnamese cooks as advisers to the kitchen detail, is symbolic of a larger failure to see and understand a culture now transplanted to American soil.

Such misconceptions are nurtured by my colleagues of the media, with the active encouragement of military and civilian authorities at Camp Pendleton. For example, the glib nickname for Pendleton—"Little Saigon"—is a glaring misnomer foisted by the American press. Not a single Vietnamese at Pendleton calls it Little Saigon, nor would they appreciate the comparison between their gracious, French-built capital and the dusty, malodorous, olive-drab tent city they now live in.

The refugees recognize their predicament more vividly than their hosts. "We understand our status as refugees," said an aloof, elderly Vietnamese doctor, his English tinged with a French accent. "When we left Saigon, we were willing to take anything, to trade anything for freedom."

Indeed, what they traded exceeds the value of all those villas, servants and limousines many Vietnamese gentry left behind. Lost in the bargain is a certain measure of their iden-

tity as individuals and a sense of an elaborate and rich civilization. Many, too, are so used to eating rice and fish sauce that they eat a simple meal according to one's tastes, sleeping alone with one's spouse or lover. Instead, they have gained the crowded anonymity of a camp that looks no different from other refugee camps in any place or time.

All the while, misunderstanding abounds among those who have come to help. A Red Cross volunteer worker from San Diego assured me the Vietnamese people are by nature a jovial, cheerful, friendly sort. "They'll always come through with a smile and a joke," she said in an awed and admiring voice.

Her companion, an elegantly dressed young Vietnamese woman who had completed her Master's degree in English at UCLA and then

Jonathan Kirsch, an editor and writer, lives in West Los Angeles. He has visited Camp Pendleton several times on a magazine assignment.

returned to her homeland shortly before the fall of Saigon listened in pained silence until the volunteer was called away. "Most Vietnamese people are very reserved," she said seriously. "We don't talk to strangers, we don't take the first step, we don't open up easily. If we smile, it's just because we got away from something horrible."

What the Red Cross volunteer saw is the patient, almost patronizing smile reserved for those who perform minor services—the patrician smile with which the master favors a servant. These Vietnamese, though no longer masters, are still unaccustomed to the debased existence of a camp inmate. When a former government minister, army colonel or plantation owner is given an extra blanket by a cheerful teen-age volunteer from an Ocean-side high school, his smile is strictly pro forma.

These men and women battle in exasperated muteness against the walls of ignorance and blindness separating them from their hosts. One American journalist, for instance, located an "East Coast specialist in ethnic affairs" who was willing to assert that "Vietnamese women did not, as a whole, have any sexual hangups." Such pronouncements evoke genuine horror from a middle-aged Vietnamese doctor with a strict Catholic background. "The American GIs came to Vietnam and slept with prostitutes," he said, "and now they make statements about all Vietnamese women." The doctor shrugged and added: "One of our biggest problems on arriving at Pendleton

was the communal bathroom. The women were embarrassed to use the toilet in front of the other ladies of the camp."

He meant to say that the more difficult for visitors to see the real face of these new arrivals. The Vietnamese, however, are willing to teach us.

I learned an excruciating lesson from Phu, a bright and canny 11-year-old boy who wore a baseball cap and an oversized Marine-issue field jacket as he raced around Area 5 at Camp Pendleton. The children were receiving rudimentary instruction in English—"survival English," as the marines call it with untypical appropriateness—and they were eager to try out English phrases on any American who passed through their world. Phu gave me his name and age, as well as this assessment of a shaggy photographer nearby: "Hippie."

The next day, I brought a few Frisbees along as gifts for the children of several Vietnamese families I had been interviewing. I saved one for Phu, but by the end of the evening I had failed to find him and we gave the Frisbee to another child. Then, on my way back to the press center, Phu materialized at my side.

He interrogated me briefly—did I remember him? He was pleased I did, and favored me with the elaborate handshake ritual, very American, that a marine had taught him. Flustered, I tried to compensate Phu for the lost Frisbee by making a truly American gesture. I stuffed a dollar bill into his pocket.

As his fingers closed around the crumpled bill, Phu's smile gave way to a disapproving frown. At once I began to regret my crassness and clumsiness. Phu followed me to the perimeter of his camp area, where, solemnly and silently, he handed me back the filthy green bill.

"It's money," I said. "You can buy yourself something at the PX."

Phu still frowned sourly.

Feeling very impoverished indeed, I dashed back to the press center and bought a dollar's worth of chewing gum and nuts, with which I returned to the tree stump in Area 5 where Phu was waiting. This gift, too, he received—until I took out two sticks of gum and, popping one into my mouth, offered him the other.

At last, Phu found a gesture he could understand and accept. A smile crept back onto his face. He seized my hand for another go at the handshake ritual, and then disappeared into the chilly darkness that was beginning to swallow the canvas tents of his new home.

Students Accept, Reject Refugees

Editor, The Union: I am shocked, saddened and embarrassed by the hostility America is venting toward the Vietnamese refugees.

As the strongest nation of the free world, it is our moral and ethical responsibility to provide the necessary leadership that these people are looking to us for. The Vietnamese refugees have just as much right to their freedom and God-given rights as does the American citizen, or is this "land of opportunity" a myth?

J. S.

Editor, The Union: Temporary housing and food for the refugees at Camp Pendleton is a big farce. Why should the Marines give up their facilities for a group of foreigners, most of which don't even want to stay here?

C. M.

Editor, The Union: I don't understand why so many American people wish that the Vietnamese hadn't come and that they would turn around and go home.

My arms are open in welcome to these new U.S. inhabitants, and I will hope that in time the rest of the people will feel the same.

L. W.

Editor, The Union: I'm not in favor of taking care of the Vietnamese refugees. There is a lack of jobs for Americans.

K. L.

Editor, The Union: We wouldn't have the Vietnamese refugee problem if our government hadn't gotten us into the war in the first place.

C. W.

Editor, The Union: I feel that the Vietnamese people shouldn't have been forced to come here. I'm not saying they were, but if they wanted to come they should be welcome. If they want to go back they shouldn't be forced to stay.

J. W. C.

Editor, The Union: I think it was right for us to take in the people from Vietnam but we do have a problem. We barely have enough jobs for our citizens and now we have more people to worry about.

P. P.

Editor's Note: These letters were written by members of the sophomore English class at Herbert Hoover High School. The instructor is Mrs. L. Reese.

San Diego Asked To Direct Processing Of Refugees

By DONALD H. HARRISON

The City of San Diego has been asked to administer a program which will pay volunteers a nominal salary to help the processing of refugees at Camp Pendleton.

Under the proposal made last week to Mayor Wilson by Nick Thorne, head of the civilian interagency task force at Camp Pendleton, the federal government would provide San Diego enough money to pay 25 volunteers at the rate of \$3,000 a year.

Although the volunteers probably would come from Oceanside, San Clemente and other communities close to Camp Pendleton, their pay checks would be signed by the City of San Diego.

TIED TO U.S. PROJECT

The volunteers technically would be attached to San Diego's federally-financed Program for Local Service (PLS), which hires senior citizens and youth to work for social service agencies.

Frank Elfman, the city's PLS administrator, said the year-old program is the only one in California, and "it is cheaper for the federal government to have us administer the effort at Camp Pendleton, than to have to set up a new administrative office."

"We're familiar with all the forms," said Elfman, whose salary is jointly paid by the city and by the federal government.

FORMS FILLED

Arthur Aguilar, director of the city's human resources department, said the city already has filled out forms requesting \$80,000 from the federal government to run the program.

But before the application is made official, he said, it must be approved by the City Council. A request has been made to the city attorney's office to prepare a resolution to that effect, he said.

Aguilar said federal officials at Camp Pendleton would recruit the volunteers and notify the city who to add to its payroll. City officials will brief whatever volunteers are hired on various payroll procedures, he said.

The \$80,000 will come to the city through the U.S. ACTION agency, which also administers the Peace Corps and VISTA programs, Aguilar said.

He said 85 positions, about half for seniors and half for youth, are involved in San Diego's own PLS program, which operates under a \$300,000 budget.

Confirmation Planned For 30 Refugees

The Most Rev. Leo T. Maher, bishop of the San Diego Roman Catholic Diocese, will administer the sacrament of confirmation to more than 30 Catholic refugees at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

The refugees were scheduled to be confirmed by their bishop in Saigon Cathedral this month but collapse of the South Vietnamese government changed their plans.

They are among almost 6,000 Catholic refugees at Camp Pendleton who have been organized into five Catholic "parishes" under the direction of five Vietnamese priests who also are refugees. They receive assistance from Navy Catholic chaplains, from diocese officials and from the U.S. Catholic Conference.

Camp Aides Back Refugee Program

By Associated Press

Spokesmen at Indochina invited Kennedy and his refugee centers around the country disagreed sharply yesterday with a Senate report that called the processing program badly disorganized.

The report, issued Sunday by the Senate subcommittee on refugees, said a significant number of refugees probably will remain in relocation camps for more than six months and perhaps a year.

Subcommittee chairman Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said that "drift and confusion mark the President's program and the activities of the Interagency Task Force."

'IN GOOD SHAPE'

"The report does not square with my sense of reality," said Richard Friedman, chief civilian coordinator at the Ft. Indiantown Gap resettlement camp at Annville, Pa. "I would say we're in very good shape."

Friedman said neither Kennedy nor any members of his committee had visited the Indiantown Gap camp, to the best of his knowledge. He

"I reiterate that I don't think anyone can reasonably foresee how long the program will last," said Friedman. "The overriding concern is whether the American public will come forward as sponsors."

There was no official response to the subcommittee report or Kennedy's statement from the State Department or other federal agencies involved in the resettlement program.

A spokesman for the task force coordinating refugee programs said Sunday that 29,000 have left the camps. 54,000 remain in four camps in this country and 45,000 are in staging areas of the western Pacific.

At the relocation center at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, a spokesman said things were running smoothly. "We are processing these people as fast as humanly possible," said Capt. Robert V. Stone.

Refugee handling scored

WASHINGTON (AP) — A significant number of Indochina refugees probably will remain in resettlement camps for more than six months and perhaps a year, says a Senate report that calls the processing program a "shambles."

In a sharp criticism of the administration's efforts to resettle 131,000 refugees, the report said:

"What should have been an orderly, expeditious and relatively straightforward procedure for processing Indochina refugees has turned into a nightmare for officials and refugees alike."

The report was issued Sunday by the Senate subcommittee on refugees. Chairman Edward M. Kennedy, D-

Mass., said that "drift and confusion mark the President's program and the activities of the Interagency Task Force and because of this, the resettlement program is scarcely off the ground."

The report said as of the first week of June, 102,314 of the 131,000 refugees under American control remained in camps to be processed and resettled.

The pace of resettlement improved slightly that week and refugees began moving out of the camps at the rate of 600 to 650 a day. However, it still would take a minimum of six months to clear the camps if the processing continued at that rate, the report said.

"More likely, significant numbers of refugees will be remaining in camps

for a longer period of time — in fact some officials estimate that the time frame may be up to a year or more," the report said.

The backlog of refugees waiting on Guam for transportation to the United States is posing serious concerns as to potential health problems and fears that the refugees will be vulnerable in the approaching typhoon season, the report said.

A spokesman for the task force coordinating refugee programs said Sunday 29,000 have left the camps. 54,000 remain in four camps in this country and 45,000 are in staging areas of the western Pacific. Another 2,000 to 4,000 have gone to other countries, although there is no accurate count.

 ESCONDIDO TIMES ADVOCATE A PAGE 3 DATE: 9 June 75

CAMP PENDLETON, CA.

REFUGEE CLIPS

11 June 1975

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13 Refugee Waifs Sad, Alone

Editorial — Page B-6

By DONALD H. HARRISON
Staff Writer
The San Diego Union

CAMP PENDLETON — The interpreter gulped as she translated for 15-year-old Pham Kuan Hoang in the tent which 13 "unaccompanied children" are now calling home.

"He says he didn't want to leave, but that his father said that he must because he is the only boy of the family and the family name should be kept alive."

Interpreter Vo Thi Thu Huong bent her head to concentrate on Hoang's next words, which were coming faster and more irregularly.

FEAR FOR FAMILY

"He says his father is 59 or 60 years old, and is a colonel in the security police. He thinks the Communists will kill his family. But he says his father doesn't mind about himself because he is old.

"He says he wanted to stay, but that his parents convinced him he should go."

A 10-year-old boy, Truong Van Anh Hung, unobtrusively handed a paper towel to Hoang, who now was crying openly as he recalled his last moments with his family. Miss Huong quietly cried with him as she struggled to translate words now bursting from the boy between sobs.

"He says he wants to be a good citizen here, to continue his study. He really doesn't know what will happen in his future, but he will be a good person, and keep alive his family name."

From elsewhere in the tent came an angry rebuke from Nguyen Phuoc Loc, 12,

after another sister's baby was born.

Hue fell to Communist forces, and Da Nang soon came under attack. A friend of her parents was able to get her on a flight to Saigon and then Guam by identifying her as his daughter. Her sister was left behind in Da Nang, too old to be passed off as the man's daughter.

The children are cared for by Red Cross nurses and by a three-man contingent of Marines, who volunteer their time.

Cpl. Bill Baytop, of Morgan City, La., and nurse Emily Appelgate, 12536 Peria Ct., Rancho Bernardo,

were on duty yesterday.

Baytop served in Vietnam three years and speaks the language well enough to carry on lively conversations with the children.

He says he heard about two children, Vu, 15, and Kiet, 11, who were without family several weeks ago. He went over to talk to the boys during his off hours, and now spends all his off duty hours with the children, officially classified as "unaccompanied" by the Marines.

Bryce Torrence, director of the Red Cross at Camp Pendleton, said the status of the 13 children in the tent

now is under discussion among representatives of his organization, the State Department and the San Diego County Department of Welfare.

He said no decision has been made whether the children should be put into orphanages, foster homes, allowed to be adopted or cared for temporarily by special guardians.

In some cases, like that of Hoang, there is no way of knowing for certain whether the father is dead or alive.

"We'll have to try to make inquiries through the International Red Cross," Torrence said.

SAME SITUATION

Drying her tears, Miss Huong said: "He is telling him not to cry because we are all in the same situation. When he goes down, it brings all the others down," she said.

For a while Hoang said the tears were not his fault, that he could not help them, but Loc, three years his junior, was unsympathetic.

Loc argued that Hoang had no right to inflict his tears on the others and to cause them more memories. Shamed, Hoang excused himself from the tent.

Loc said he lived with his parents far from Saigon and that the family tried to escape by boat during the final days of the Communist offensives.

"He says his family was caught by the Viet Cong and taken to an island," Miss Huong translated. "He says he was the only one to escape. With other people he got onto a boat and sailed to the (U.S.) 7th Fleet."

A 12-year-old girl, Nguyen Thuy Bich, said she had lived in Hue, and traveled with her sister to Da Nang. Her parents planned to meet them in Da Nang, she said.

A Talega First: A Baby Shower

By SGT. JOHN JOHNSTON

CAMP PENDLETON — The first baby shower ever to be held for a refugee family here was organized by two Marines and a sailor.

Sgt. Jim Ponath, Cpl. George Thomson and P.O. Michael Patry met a Vietnamese couple May 29 in the Talega area chapel.

During a brief discussion, the military men learned the couple was expecting an addition to their family in about three weeks.

"We decided a baby shower was in order," explained Patry. "We began initial planning right away, and the next morning we contacted Mrs. Ele Darnall for help and advice."

Mrs. Darnall, wife of Navy Captain William L. Darnall, commanding officer of the Camp Pendleton Dental Clinic, quickly agreed to help.

With assistance from the Red Cross, the Naval Dispensary and the chaplain's office, Mrs. Darnall and the three men were able to gather gifts, decorations and refreshments.

The baby shower took place at 10 a.m. the next day — complete with a brief church ceremony.

Brig.Gen. Paul G. Graham, Sgt. Major Kajdacz, Mrs. Darnall, and the two Marines and sailor who started it all, attended the baby shower/reception for Phung Thi Hanh.

At the conclusion of the shower for Phung, her husband, Luu Nguyen Dat said Thank you to everyone involved in the baby shower.

"We smile because this country gave us hope again. We smile because so many people in America are opening their arms and hearts for us and our children," commented Luu.

After the reception, Luu said, "If the baby is a girl, we will name her Luu Hannah Talega. If a boy, he will be called Luu David Wilbur Talega."

The names are in honor of Luu's first home in America, his sponsor in Michigan, Wilbur Cutlar, and Navy Chaplain David Planck.

Unity, Not Isolationism

EDITOR:

The Marine Corps and Navy represent unity -- likened to family unity. Within these organizations, as within America, there is no place for isolation from your neighbors -- here or abroad -- or a smallness of mind pitting one against the other, as to the provincial. America is not a province and never was. America, and the Marines and Navy, stand up for all peoples under the slogan "in God we trust." ---unity under God for the welfare of all.

The few complaining letters from service-connected people show a real lack of knowledge, or indifference, regarding this information, and a misunderstanding of what the role of the service means. Also what their true goals are. Service to humanity in any part of this world is their goal, whenever humanity is suffering loss of rights from aggression.

Christ prayed for unity among mankind, at which time he invoked the prayer, the "Our Father," asking for forgiveness for our sins - as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Do you who plead for isolationism for this country, and who are service-connected, really believe that a united organization claiming trust in God should not work and fight for peace in the world? The Holy Bible prescribes defending your homeland in a just war -- that which is aggressively forced on you or your neighbors.

No, we are not going to go backward, only forward in the needs of peoples. Isolation, if you know any world history at all, is a dangerous way to live. The world has already found from experience that it leaves a country alone and vulnerable to attack. It is sheer suicide and totally unrealistic in the world today. Unity was Christ's prayer and is the prayer of the world.

NAME WITHHELD
Carlsbad

Check the freeloaders

Editor: The Vietnamese refugees who are here are those who have the desire to be free and the guts to begin life in a strange new land. They are to be admired and not resented.

If we citizens want to cut our taxes let's not complain about helping these deserving people, but let's reform our welfare system and make sure welfare assistance goes only to those truly in need and not the "native born" freeloaders already among us.

Stop Hospital Complaints

EDITOR:

When wars and results of wars come into being we will be inconvenienced. As a wife of a retired military man my family and I have been patients at the Navy hospital at Camp Pendleton since 1949.

We have not seen any ine since then that is comparable to our recent problems at the hospital, so don't put the blame on the doctors, on the Navy or the Marines. They have a workload at present unlike any hospital in the entire county, or the entire country.

All due respect to the woman who wrote recently telling of her hardship at the Naval hospital due to not being able to get attention for her infected foot. With a wait of three hours ahead of her.

I imagine some of the refugees are waiting that long for one another to be seen, and I know I have had to wait that long out there several times over the years before they arrived.

How many civilian doctors have told their patients the same thing from time to time when ever their workload became too much? I personally have heard civilians complaining of the same kind of thing!

Yes, many a young Navy or Marine wife has come to a Navy installation away from some small town where there was only need of one or two doctors.

Also, the government pays for any visit of a service family or dependent to a civilian doctor over a certain amount. You find yourself reimbursed, especially for hospital stays or higher priced medical problems.

So, enough of this recent calamity-by-letters to the editor complaining about what is happening at the Naval hospital at Camp Pendleton.

NAME WITHHELD
Carlsbad

Us Poor Suckers Pay Bill

EDITOR:

I read in Tuesday paper June 3, where 25 per cent (1,187) of the refugees refuse to leave Camp Elgin Air Force Base.

Well, can you blame them? Free lodging, food, clothing, medical and hospital care ect., they never had it so good.

They (the Vietnamese) say they are afraid of the unknown.

So, they don't know their sponsors or don't like them and then go running back to Big Uncle Sam.

If they don't want to get out and work for their keep, send them back where they came from.

Up goes prices and taxes. Who pays? Us poor suckers who work all our lives so we won't have to depend on welfare to take care of us in our older days.

NAME WITHHELD
Carlsbad

More Refugees Leaving Guam

AGANA, Guam (UPI) — Ten flights were scheduled Monday to carry 2,700 Vietnamese refugees from Guam to mainland reception centers. A Navy spokesman said it was planned to move them at the rate of 2,700 per day for the next four days.

"After that, we're not sure how fast we will be able to move them," the spokesman said. "The mainland reception centers will fill up fast, but we hope to get our total population down to about 20,000 by June 10."

Headquarters MARINE CORPS

CAMP PENDLETON, CA.

REFUGEE CLIPS

16 June 1975

File

Refugee Father Kept From Joining

By DONALD H. HARRISON
Staff Writer
The San Diego Union

CAMP PENDLETON — The family of Ha Duong Hoan has been at Camp Pendleton since May 5. The trouble is Hoan is at Ft. Chaffee, Ark.

His entreaties to be allowed to join his wife and three sons, so far, have gone unanswered.

Bob Kidd, a State Department representative in charge of reunifying families, says he knows of 351 cases involving 581

at Camp Pendleton in which members of the same family are scattered among the four refugee camps in the mainland United States.

There are another 1,059 cases involving families with relatives believed to be on Guam, he said. The 1,059 cases affect 2,459 refugees at Camp Pendleton.

NOT REUNITED Except in rare instances, usually involving a medical emergency, the families have not been reunited.

Kidd said nothing can be done until Washington decides how to handle the reun-

ification program.

"Do we put the people on commercial flights; do we charter an airplane; do we allow them to carry their own papers from one camp to the other?" All these questions, said Kidd, remain unanswered.

And, while they do, the futures of many families will remain unsettled.

HOME OFFERED

Vu Minh Nguyet, Hoan's wife, said in a recent interview that her family has the opportunity to stay with a relative in Compton, a suburb of Los Angeles.

But, she says, it is a decision that must be discussed with her husband, a former colonel in the South Vietnamese Air Force.

"Until he comes to Camp Pendleton," she said, "we will remain here."

Financially, she explained, the family has no choice but to remain in Camp Pendleton. If they go to Compton, they leave the protection of the refugee program and are on their own. If they decide they do not like Compton, they will be unable financially to relocate themselves.

Family At Pendleton

Mrs. Hoan has a sister who lives in Compton. The sister is the widow of an American GI. She has two children in school, and works full time to support her family.

"She is family, but we would be alone there," Mrs. Hoan said. "Perhaps my husband will want to settle somewhere else."

Mrs. Hoan said she left Viet Nam with her children April 26, and that her husband left April 29.

He arrived in Guam May 12, a week after they had

arrived at Camp Pendleton, Mrs. Hoan said.

The husband called the sister-in-law in Compton, who told him his family was at Camp Pendleton, Mrs. Hoan said.

AUTHORITIES TOLD

"He told this to the authorities, but they sent him to Ft. Chaffee anyway," said Mrs. Hoan. "They have so many people to worry about," she added.

Kidd said all the reported separations of families must be verified. Some people may be lying to the government, he said, and asking to

be reunited with friends, rather than family, at the taxpayer's expense. "I know these people," said Kidd.

The State Department official also said that reuniting people on Guam with families on the mainland is of higher priority than reuniting families scattered on the mainland.

"We want to get people off Guam before the rainy season," he said.

Retort To Retort

EDITOR:

I would sincerely wish to thank Robert C. Hiatt for apologizing in his letter, printed Wednesday May 28th.

It seems that I touched the mind and soul of this defender of a few.

Marines of today's Marine Corps are permitted to express their opinions and God help us all if the freedom of speech is revoked to all the citizens of these United States, as you so stated. Come on, I'm sure you can do better than that.

And I stated before I have had almost daily contact with the refugee camps, as I am a tractor-trailer operator and have been assisting in the logistical support, offered to these refugees by the United States government and I assure you I have no axes to grind, anywhere at anytime.

And as you stated I have always had trouble accepting facts. I'll stack up my record against yours at any time or any place.

Yes? "Bed check" is a matter of life, but not with M-16 rifles as you so stated. And if taking the field jackets away from the troops and throwing them out of their assigned billeting area and making them sleep on the bare ground with one blanket isn't abuse, one of us is out of tune, don't you agree?

In closing, please run these so called films of all, these so-called allegations you state, real slow and maybe I will understand, I'll try real hard, I promise.

And isn't it quite strange, that of all the young marines who have done and are still doing these so called chores are doing it with a sense of dignity and compassion for those who are so very much less fortunate, than ourselves and not saying a word about it?

DONALD R. PLUNKETT
Vista

OCEANSIDE BLADE TRIBUNE, SECT. 1 PAGE 5 DATE 12 June 75



NEW PATRIOT — The flag he's drawn might be backwards, but the message is clear as Do Xuan Vu, 14, a Vietnamese refugee at

Camp Pendleton, shows off his art work. The drawing on the table is the flag of South Vietnam.

OCEANSIDE BLADE TRIBUNE, SECT. 1 PAGE 14 DATE 13 June 75

Air Service To Reunite Refugees

San Diego Union Staff Dispatch

CAMP PENDLETON — Civilian authorities here said yesterday movement of hundreds of refugees between Camp Pendleton and other refugee centers in the mainland United States is expected "to begin within a week" in an attempt to reunite families.

Tom Irvin, deputy senior coordinator of the government Interagency Task Force, said information on split families now has been collected and verified and that the families will be reunited as soon as flight arrangements can be made.

In most instances, he said, smaller family contingents will be flown to camps where larger family contingents are located. But the reverse could occur when the smaller contingent is known to be at a camp closer to the family's planned destination.

For example, if five family members were at Camp Pendleton and two were at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, the five would be flown to Eglin if the family had sponsors in Miami, Fla.

Irvin said 351 families at Camp Pendleton are known to have members of their immediate family at other camps in the United States, predominantly Ft. Chaffee, Ark.

He said the refugees will be flown from one camp to another in as economic fashion as possible, with charters possible for large groups going to the same camp.

Smaller groups will be flown commercially, possibly with escorts, Irvin said. He said he anticipated that within a week the first reunification flights would occur, and that the pace would build up to involve at least 20 persons daily.

Irvin said reuniting the families would be given equal priority with finding sponsors for refugees. He said in many instances it would be impossible to find sponsors for the families until after they are reunited and have the chance to discuss plans among themselves.

Canada Hunts 14,000 Refugees Eligible For Relocation

By DONALD H. HARRISON
Staff Writer
The San Diego Union

CAMP PENDLETON — In the days before the collapse of South Vietnam, Canadian officials tried to process for immigrations thousands of Vietnamese with relatives in Canada.

However, events overtook the paperwork and 14,000 Vietnamese entitled to go to Canada because of family connections were not processed, according to Boris Stipac, Canadian consul in Los Angeles.

Stipac now is spending nearly every afternoon at Camp Pendleton in an attempt to locate as many of the 14,000 as possible. He also is coordinating the relocation of an additional 3,000 refugees to Canada — the number the Ottawa government agreed to accept from the United States.

1,900 FAMILIES

The 14,000 refugees are members of 1,900 rather large families, Stipac said. Each head of family has a letter from the Canadian Embassy in Vietnam, telling any Canadian official who might read it that the family is eligible for immediate immigration to Canada.

To date, Stipac said yesterday, about 2,100 refugees have been transported to Canada, and another 300 are completing processing at Camp Pendleton. About 30 Canadian-bound refugees are arriving each day from Guam and other Pacific collection points, he said.

JOB SKILLS LISTED

The consul said he did not have a breakdown on how many of the 2,400 persons come from the original list of eligible immigrants and how many are part of the contingent of 3,000 which will be accepted even without relatives in Canada. Most probably are in the former category, he said.

The Canadian government gave U.S. authorities a list of desired job skills, and this list has been matched to the skills of incoming refugees, he said.

The requested job skills encompass "a great variety of occupations, from tradesmen to economists, engineers, draftsmen and nurses," he said.

The Canadian government established an office in Guam in May, then after three weeks shut it down and transferred operations to Camp Pendleton. American officials in Guam were

asked to put all refugees with official Canadian documents aboard flights to Camp Pendleton.

At first, said Stipac, Canadians came to Camp Pendleton a few times a week. But the numbers of refugees en route to Canada proved so great that a permanent office was established in a trailer shared with the U.S. Immigration and Natural-

ization Service.

That proved insufficient for the demand, and now the Canadians are housed in a large trailer complex with seven Canadian personnel and five Vietnamese volunteers. Canada is the only country with permanent facilities at Camp Pendleton. Many of those Vietnamese with relatives in Canada are headed for the French-

speaking province of Quebec, specifically Montreal, Stipac said.

Some will be going to English-speaking parts of Canada, particularly families of Vietnamese university students, who were extended the privilege of bringing in their families, even though they are neither citizens nor permanent residents.

The 3,000 refugees without

relatives in Canada will be dispersed throughout the country, Stipac said. He added that debate over helping the refugees has been less extensive in Canada than in the United States.

"Of course we have people who don't agree with the policy," he said, "but there are people who don't agree with the idea of any immigration."

Vignettes of Vietnamese Refugees

by Lloyd Shearer

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIF.

In 1956 the Voice of America and other U.S. quasi-intelligence agencies helped stimulate a revolt against Hungarian communism. The Soviets sent in troops while the Hungarians vainly pleaded for U.S. arms. Khrushchev's men brutally quelled the insurgency. Eventually the U.S. welcomed 40,000 Hungarian immigrants to these shores.

In 1960 and 1961 the CIA recruited and trained a group of Cuban exiles in Florida, Louisiana, Panama, and Guatemala to invade Cuba and defeat Cuban communism. The Castroites entrapped the invaders in the Bay of Pigs and defeated them. Today the U.S. is the home of some 600,000 Cuban immigrants.

In the 1970's the Americans, after training, financing, and supplying the South Vietnamese to beat North Vietnamese communism, pulled out their troops. Under Richard Nixon we instituted a Vietnamization program designed to make the South Vietnamese militarily self-sufficient. A few months ago the army of South Vietnam collapsed. Now approximately 130,000 Vietnamese refugees reside on American territory.

We pay for our inability to contain overseas communism in costly hospitality . . . justifiably so.

* * *

They said the first refugees to reach Camp Pendleton, the California Marine base, three miles across Highway 5 from Richard Nixon's San Clemente residence, were not the hoi polloi but rather the cream of the moneyed Vietnamese—the lawyers, the doctors, the bankers, the professionals and their families. But the first refugee who approached a PARADE reporter along the



Refugees search for their hastily packed baggage outside temporary tent homes.

Row of tents at Pendleton was a beautiful, heavily lipsticked young woman. "You get me out of this ----- camp, and I ---- you forever" she said in brothel English, "Together we make plenty money." When the reporter explained that all camp inmates had to submit first to a security and then to a sponsor check, the girl stilettoed him with a look of scorn. "You a goddam chicken," she spat out.

* * *

At Camp Pendleton, the refugees began to call their area "Little Saigon." The Marines there toiled endlessly, erected 1000 tents, laid down miles of water pipes and electric cables, hoisted hundreds of chemical toilets, worked 'round the clock, feeding and sheltering 18,000 refugees. They were good-natured, courteous, smiling, tolerant—a few accepted the nocturnal sexual services of former bar girls, but they were all helpful, polite, and particularly playful with the children, who constitute an estimated 60 per cent of the refugees. In its first week of operation, Pendleton's bill for pipe, tents, bedding, water fixtures, and food exceeded \$5 million.

* * *

A Vietnamese girl named Vinh, infant in arms, was crying. "They told me," she said, "we go to Bangkok, we going to Bangkok. This not Bangkok. We fly hours, hours. Where Bangkok? My husband in Bangkok." There were others like her. Panicky, fearful, they grabbed the first flight, the first ship to anywhere. Only anywhere wasn't where they wanted to be.

* * *

One of the featured and most puzzling personalities at Pendleton was Nguyen Cao Ky, the former Air Vice Marshal, Premier and Vice President of South Vietnam (shown on our cover). After making sure his wife and four children would be secure in Washington, D.C.,

with his former public relations officer, Ky was one of the last to helicopter out of Saigon, but not before he made a rousing speech urging every red-blooded South Vietnamese to stay behind to defend his country.

At Pendleton, Ky occupied a bed in tent A3. Here he was greeted by retired U.S. Air Force Col. Jack Bailey, who kept telling him, "Just spoke to Bob Hope last night. Bob wants you and me to appear on his next show." Ky seemed a bit taken back by the invitation but said he would be glad to appear with Bob Hope. He knew Bob Hope was a true patriot.

I asked Ky if he thought the Communists would fuel a bloodbath in South Vietnam. "Oh, yes," he explained. "But not to begin. They will do it slowly, quietly. They are going to execute a lot of people, particularly our airmen who inflicted upon them very heavy casualties. Then they will kill one million or so; another 100,000 or 200,000 they can use—these people will be placed in concentration camps for brainwashing. But they will surely kill millions."

Did he feel that the Americans had let his people down?

"No, it was not your fault that we lost the war. You helped us all you could, perhaps you helped us too much. We lost the war because of Nguyen Van Thieu [who had ousted Ky from power]. Thieu provided us corruption instead of leadership. Remember the defeat of our country must be attributed to Thieu. He is the most evil man in the world.

"Look!" he exclaimed. "I am here among my people. I am broke. Maybe someone will give me a job driving a taxi, maybe I can be a farmer in San Antonio. I have been to San Antonio. I like San Antonio. Where is Thieu? On Taiwan with his wife and his money."

I walked out of the hot tent with Ky beside me. We posed for photos. The Air Force colonel drove him off to lunch. A Vietnamese banker edged up beside me. "Only a fool," he said softly, "would believe that man. He wants to become leader of the Vietnamese in exile."

* * *

Sign on bulletin board: "Nguyen Thi Tu—Tent 43A—must find Dennis E. McGowan—phone # 502-969-2733, passport B-1359087; Soc. Sec. # 349-42-4415; He born Chicago, 12-19-47. Father: George McGowan, 10100 Coralwood Drive, Louisville, Ky. Here with child.

* * *

A Vietnamese physician who was trained at the University of Oklahoma, was living in Tent 43E with his family. He was an internist, he ex

continued

REFUGEES CONTINUED

plained, and the university would sponsor him. In a week or so he expected to be doctoring in Oklahoma City or somewhere in the state.

Camp Pendleton was very nice, except it was too cold at night. But the Marines had been very thoughtful, three blankets for everyone, and even spare field jackets for others.

Many of the Vietnamese who had fled Saigon, he explained, had been caught up in the contagion of panic. Many were the children of army men. They had been told that if the Communists caught them, they would be executed immediately. So they fled along with all the others who had worked or supported the Americans.

"Suppose," the doctor was asked, "there is no bloodbath in South Vietnam. Do you think most of these people would prefer to return to South Vietnam?"

"Yes," he asserted quickly. "I think most of them would. After all, so many are children; so many are separated from their families; so many have to get accustomed to a new culture, a new way of life here. It is very difficult for people of a different race, a different background, a different climate. We are a very close people. And if after all these years of war, there is finally peace at home it is a shame for Vietnamese not to know it.

"You see," he added, "we are not really a very political people. A little land, a little rice, a little peace. That is the most people wish for."

* * *

The Cambodians at Pendleton do not like the Vietnamese and vice versa. The Cambodians, however, even though defeated by their own countrymen, the Khmer Rouge, are quietly proud that it was Cambodians who stood up to the Americans in the Mayaguez affair. The

Cambodians and Vietnamese refugees are both convinced that the white man will never again rule supreme in Southeast Asia.

* * *

The refugees at Pendleton do not expect to be treated equally. They defer to Vietnamese who have money or had power and position at home. Few refugees were surprised to learn that Trang Si Tan, Nguyen Van Giaum, Truong Bay, and other generals and police officials from home had quietly and quickly been allowed to leave camp under special conditions. "The same old story," one refugee said cynically.

* * *

The reason they refused to fight the Communists, several Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) soldiers explained, was because of President Thieu. According to their account, "We had many excellent infantry divisions who would have defended our country to the end. It was General Thieu who was indecisive. He ran around like a headless chicken. He didn't know what to do. When our men were defeated at Ban Me Thout in March, President Thieu issued different orders every hour. First we were to stand and fight, then we were to fall back and fight, then we were to retreat only to attack again. In the end our officers decided to save their own skins.

"Once that happened panic took over. It became every man for himself. We abandoned our equipment and our soldiers. The objective was to escape to the coast. There was much shameful looting. There was no discipline by the men, because there was no discipline by the officers. The fault of the ARVN was that it was rotten on top, starting with Thieu. We had an army motivated by piasters, not patriotism . . . remember you are not to use our names."



Confused and worried, a Vietnamese woman questions Marine sergeant at Pendleton.

Refugee Family Reuniting To Start

San Diego Union Staff Dispatch

CAMP PENDLETON — Reuniting of Vietnamese families separated in the evacuation of South Vietnam will start this week, a spokesman for the Refugee Camps Inter-Agency Committee here said yesterday.

American Red Cross agents will compare reports at centers in the United States and Guam to verify family ties.

"We will take the fewest members of a family to join the larger group with some exceptions," the spokesman said. "Where they have sponsors, they will be transferred to the area nearest the sponsors as it would not make sense to take them somewhere else and bring them all back again."

364 EXPECTED

Camp Pendleton, which has received 33,934 Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees since April 29, has released 16,614 to sponsors and has 17,320 remaining in camp. Another 364 are due today from El Toro Marine Air Base.

There were 6,999 refugees received and 2,720 released at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, 29,399 received and 6,719 released at Ft. Chaffee, Ark., by the Army and 15,097 received and 268 released at the newest Army-operated center, Indiantown Gap, Pa., officials said.

"We need more sponsors," was the main response yesterday at Camp Pendleton to questions about operations at the center.

Most of the volunteer agencies handling sponsorship for refugees asked that interested persons contact local ministers, priests, rabbis and community agencies. They said investigations are made in the home communities of sponsors and that calling the base would tie up telephones needed for processing work.

Halleck L. F. Rose, a retired U.S. Foreign Service veteran now with the International Rescue Committee, advised sponsors to contact

him at the IRC office on Camp Pendleton.

SPONSOR CHECKS

Rose said all the agency workers have experience in checking to see if apparent sponsors might exploit the refugees.

"We can handle cases on the phone with reliable persons and cut the paper work," Rose said. "A job is not enough. They need shelter and counseling. The ideal thing would be a Vietnamese Village. They like to stick together. We have families, not single persons."

He said clearances were done faster for Cuban and Hungarian refugees but that "things are going more smoothly than we expected — this is so different."

Nearly 250 Vietnamese Refugees Seek Welfare Aid

Welfare applications for almost 250 Vietnamese refugees have been received by the San Diego County Welfare Department. As of yesterday, 100 applications had been filed with the department, involving 243 persons and four unborn children, welfare officials said.

Horner Detrich, welfare director, said refugees have applied for aid under several programs and are eligible for the same range of welfare benefits available to other county residents.

Nationally, an arrangement between nine voluntary organizations and the federal government has created a sponsoring system to

provide alternate sponsors if original sponsors back out.

W.L. Porterfield, chief of welfare services, said that arrangement does not prevent refugees with sponsors from applying for welfare.

Sponsors themselves may take the refugees to the welfare office, he said, when they realize the costs involved in supporting a dependent family.

"It's a tremendous financial obligation," he said.

The U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has guaranteed 100 per cent reimbursement to counties providing welfare assistance to Vietnamese refugees. Detrich said this sys-

tem was established to offset welfare costs for Cuban refugees in the 1960s.

The county will send in forms to the state, which will pass them along to HEW.

Vietnamese refugees applying for assistance must meet the same qualifications as other applicants, although those qualifications differ from program to program.

So far, 20 families have been granted Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). 10 persons have received general relief and 15 applications for Medi-Cal have been approved.

Forty-nine welfare cases were still pending yesterday afternoon.

Of those applications denied, a department spokesman said that although he was not familiar with the exact cases, jewelry or other valuable possessions that are figured as assets might have disqualified an applicant for welfare.

\$35 MILLION COST CITED TO EDUCATE REFUGEES

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Unless the federal government takes action, California will be faced with a \$35-million bill to educate Vietnamese refugee children, state officials said yesterday.

Charles McFadden, a spokesman for Wilson Riles, state superintendent of schools, said Caspar Weinberger, U.S. secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, reports that Congress has not allocated funds for refugee education.

"It's unfair, not to mention irresponsible" for the federal government not to pay the unexpected additional costs to state and local school districts, McFadden said.

He said a task force study of refugees at Camp Pendleton reported that 32 per cent of the 130,000 refugees in the United States — 41,600 — would settle in California and 60 per cent of that figure, nearly 25,000, would be school-age children.

He said the annual cost to educate one child is estimated at \$1,400. Educating 25,000 children would cost \$35 million.

U.S. Will Pay Aid Cost For Refugees

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The government will pay all costs of state welfare, medical and social services provided Indochina refugees by the states in which they settle, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare said yesterday.

Complaints have come from several sections of the country that feared they would be inundated by refugees who would drain their welfare funds.

HEW Secretary Caspar Weinberger said the states will be reimbursed 100 per cent for the welfare, medical and social services provided refugees who need help after being resettled in American communities.

FUNDS APPROVED

Under the refugee assistance act passed last month, \$405 million was appropriated for refugee care, including \$100 million to cover medical treatment.

Resettlement under sponsors who will provide food, shelter and help in finding employment is the administration's goal for all refugees, Weinberger said.

"However, in any large-scale refugee resettlement

program, some refugees will have to seek aid from state agencies," he said. "In these instances, our policies will assure that the refugees do not become a burden on state or local resources."

That means the states will not have to provide the normal matching costs to be eligible for federal welfare aid for refugees.

CALIFORNIA ACTION

California officials reported yesterday they have begun payment benefits to 200 Vietnamese during the six weeks since the first refugees arrived in the state.

HEW said that when major medical needs arise, the government will provide medical assistance "in order to avoid a breakdown in sponsorship."

The department also said refugees who want to go to college next fall will be eligible for federal student loans because of a recent ruling by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which said that Vietnamese and Cambodians who entered the country as nonimmigrants may apply to remain indefinitely.

Refugee Expense Feared

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Unless the federal government takes action, California will be stuck with a \$35 million bill to educate Vietnamese refugee children, state officials said Wednesday.

Mario Obledo, Gov. Edmund Brown Jr.'s Health and Welfare secretary, said in an interview.

The (state) Department of Education is concerned about the millions of dollars it's going to have to expend to educate the refugees.

Obledo and a spokesman for Wilson Riles, state superintendent of schools, said Caspar Weinberger, U.S. secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, reports that Congress has not allocated funds for refugee education.

Riles' special assistant, Charles McFadden, said, "It's unfair, not to mention irresponsible" for the federal government not to pay the unexpected additional costs to state and local school districts.

McFadden said a task force study of refugees at Camp Pendleton reported that 32 per cent of the 130,000 refugees in the United States — 41,600 — would settle in California and 60 per cent of that figure, nearly 25,000, would be school-age children.

He said the annual cost to educate one child is estimated at \$1,400.

U.S. SEES WELFARE FOR SOME REFUGEES

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government acknowledged Wednesday that some Vietnamese refugees will be unable to support themselves and will be forced to sign up for welfare payments.

Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger of Health Education and Welfare emphasized, however, that he expects most of the 31,528 Vietnamese refugees to be resettled with the help of American sponsors who are to provide housing and jobs.

Weinberger said HEW will

reimburse the states for welfare payments to both Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees now moving from four camps in California, Arkansas, Florida and Pennsylvania to new homes around the country. There are comparatively few Cambodian refugees.

There was no estimate available of how many refugees might end up on the welfare rolls, but California officials reported Wednesday they have begun payment benefits to 200 Vietnamese during the six weeks since the first

Weinberger Says HEW To Pay States

refugees arrived on U.S. soil. An HEW spokesman estimated \$50 million in federal funds will go for refugees welfare payments.

Weinberger said the states would also be reimbursed when public funds were used to pay major medical bills of

refugees. In that case, refugees not on welfare would be eligible for federal assistance for major medical costs.

State officials, especially those in California, have said they fear that the refugees will inevitably place a burden on their already overtaxed finances unless the federal government steps in to pick up the tab. They also fear that Vietnamese might take jobs which Americans might hold during the current period of 9.2 per cent unemployment nationwide.

While saying resettlement

will rely primarily on national voluntary agencies and the sponsorship of individual Americans, Weinberger said. "In any large scale refugees resettlement program, some refugees will have to seek aid from state agencies."

Congress has approved \$405 million for resettlement costs, including \$100 million for HEW to spend in meeting the initial medical, educational and welfare needs of the refugees.

The \$50 million will come from HEW's share of the \$405 million appropriation.

City expects few refugee students

The city school district expects very few Southeast Asia refugees with school age children will make their homes in San Diego, Deputy Supt. William Stegeman said yesterday.

So far only six children from refugee families have enrolled in the city schools, Stegeman told the Tribune.

"We really don't know how many will come here, but we believe most who come to this area will locate in the South Bay area," Stegeman said.

The educator said he was at Camp Pendleton earlier this week where refugees are being processed for relocation and was told by the U.S. State Department that no more than 1,200 would settle in California.

"But no one really knows for sure," Stegeman said.

School districts will get some financial help from the federal government, Casper W. Weinberger, sec-

retary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare said yesterday in a statement from Washington.

The aid will be one-time grants of between \$200 and \$300 per child, Weinberger said. The money is to help defray emergency costs of instructing Vietnamese and Cambodian school children.

To be eligible for a grant, the number of refugees enrolled by a district must exceed 100 students or 1 per cent of the district's total enrollment, whichever is less, Weinberger said.

"We expect refugee families to be dispersed widely across the nation," Weinberger said. "Where concentrations (of children) develop, however, this funding opportunity will assure that the refugee school children do not become a burden on state or local school budgets."

Semi-Active Post Welcomes Refugees

By LEE EWING

Times Staff Writer

FORT CHAFFEE, Ark. — Life is usually mighty peaceful at this semi-active reserve training base here in the Arkansas River valley. The post slumbers for most of the year, rouses itself while about 6000 reserve and National Guard troops get in their summer training, then falls back into its normal routine, with maintenance the prime mission.

This year was different. On the morning of April 28, the still air was buffeted by helicopters depositing an advance party from Fort Sill, Okla., that would prepare the base to receive 24,000 Vietnamese refugees en route to Chaffee and a new life.

Fortunately, the permanent garrison of 130 civilians and a half-dozen military people had kept the barracks and grounds in shape and had already begun cleaning them so that they would be ready for the annual influx of summer trainees.

The barracks were used to

house the refugees who poured in on 200 flights from the Pacific.

"The organization of the barracks was suited for the requirement," said Brig. Gen. James W. Cannon, CG of III Corps Arty at Sill and commander of Task Force New Arrival here until May 21 when he was sent to Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa., to ready that post for refugees.

While a task force of cooks, linguists and medical specialists was being assembled, troops from Sill rushed in immediately to prepare the barracks, mess halls and processing centers for the immigrants.

Unlike Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Eglin AFB, Fla., Chaffee had many empty barracks, so it wasn't necessary to erect thousands of tents for the refugees. But there was other work to be done and — unlike Pendleton and Eglin — no major troops units on base to do it.

Barracks were cleaned and repaired, water and power lines turned on, a family of

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support from the permanent garrison and from Sill, of which Chaffee is a sub-post, was "magnificent."

Maj. Howard Turner, administrative officer for the task force, agreed that the operation is a test of the volunteer Army: "We picked up and started moving in 24 hours. We just closed the door and left."

Turner, normally S-1 of the 46th Spt Gp at Fort Bragg, N.C., said "it's been an outstanding training vehicle" for junior career soldiers who didn't serve in Vietnam. "Everyone discovered depths of reserve they didn't know they had."

Asked to assess the impact of the refugee operation on the normal operations of the units at Sill, Cannon said the effect has been "minimal at the present time," but that "obviously, there's going to be a shortfall."

The principal effect on the reserve units here for summer training is that instead of living in barracks, they'll be roughing it for two weeks in tents.

Random interviews with several reservists indicated that most seemed to be taking the change in accommodations without bitterness, perhaps because many of them leave for motels off base after duty hours.

Branch PX facilities were provided for the Vietnamese under special authority from the Defense Department, and Cannon said "we haven't closed a thing to either the Reserve Components or to the retired community."

So far, there have been no disciplinary problems among the troops, although there have been a few misdemeanors (for example, one refugee was convicted of petty larceny for stealing swim trunks from the PX) among the evacuees.

foxes routed from the hospital, and dead hornets and bird droppings swept from the chapel.

In the first wave was A Btry, 3d Bn, 9th FA, which flew down from Sill to get the barracks in shape. The artillerymen set up 20,000 bunks, 106 to each barracks. Other support troops built plywood partitions so the refugee families could have some privacy, and brought dormant mess halls and offices to life.

Units from nine Army installations as far away as Alaska and Panama contributed to the effort, and commanders competed to give the most lavish "attaboys" to the troops.

"If anybody wonders about the professionalism of the volunteer Army, I think Fort Chaffee is a pretty good demonstration that we have nothing to worry about," Cannon said.

His troops "worked almost intolerably long hours, and they wanted to do more," Cannon said, adding that the

(See FORT, Page 38)

Asked whether U.S. support troops are having sexual relations with refugees, Cannon said: "The demand is here. The supply has arrived. Any time you have a supply and demand, you have a market."

"I don't know whether we brought Tu Do Street here or not," Cannon said. "We've been too damned busy getting the camp ready to get the kind of problems we're going to get when we become a sustaining effort."

To provide command and control for the task force, the 46th Spt Gp was brought in from Fort Bragg. Because the staff officers work together daily, they were able to set up operations quickly.

The unit's commander, Col. Robert L. Travis, served as the main supply officer for the task force here before the headquarters unit deployed to Indiantown Gap along with Cannon.

One of the biggest jobs facing the task force was feeding a camp population that swelled to nearly 25,000 by late May. Refugees waited more than an hour to eat at times, although 33 mess lines were opened to serve them.

After refugees balked at a diet of rice, fish, chicken and pork because the rice was too soggy and there were no vegetables, Vietnamese volunteers helped improve the rice and fresh produce was ordered. For variety, carrots, onions, spices and soy sauce were added to the menu.

Most of the refugees managed to adjust to the food, and there were fewer complaints about the "cold" climate here than among refugees in California, perhaps because at Chaffee they live in barracks instead of tents.

However, few of the refugees have sufficient clothing, and distributing donated clothing has been one of the main jobs of the task force civil affairs officer, Capt. Max Pufpaff.

Pufpaff, who comes from the Field Artillery Center at Sill, said donations of clothing and toys have been "overwhelming." help has come from Army posts, reserve units and civilian organizations throughout the country, he said. He still needs sweaters, light jackets and simple toys such as balls, stuffed

dolls, Frisbees and toy trucks. Donors should make arrangements by calling civil affairs at (501) 484-2345.

At last report, there were about 2000 soldiers supporting nearly 25,000 refugees at Chaffee, a ratio of better than 1:10. Travis, a logistician, was surprised that more troops weren't needed because, he said, there are normally three support troops for each combat soldier in field operations.

The difference, as compared to that there is no combat at Chaffee, and the people supported — the refugees — have volunteered to help in the mess halls, in the offices of the volunteer agencies who are seeking sponsors for refugees, as interpreters and as English teachers.

Vietnamese physicians are helping military medical personnel from the 47th Field Hospital from Bragg and other units to screen patients. Vietnamese clergymen are working with the seven Army chaplains to meet the spiritual needs of the exiles.

Processing takes about two days, but getting a security clearance from Washington and finding a sponsor may take weeks, so thousands of refugees have time on their hands. Time to wait in line to buy a sweater in the PX. Time to do volunteer work. Time to telephone Americans whom they knew in Vietnam.

Time to remember.

"I want to work," said a former Vietnamese air force sergeant whose wife and two children were left behind when his AC-119 gunship escaped to Thailand, "because here we have much time." I want to work to forget — to forget my family, to forget my country."

Two other VNAF NCOs say they are eager to find work because when they fled, they had only the clothes on their backs.

One holds up a gold wedding band he had tried to sell to the gold dealers, but they were not interested in such a trifle.

The first three people a reporter approached in the PX line happened to be a clergyman, a physician and a businessman, all of whom were at least financially solvent. Although they may suffer less economic hardship than others, they share in the pain of families parted, careers ended, lives lost

The Rev. Nguyen Liem An, president of the 10,000-member Vietnam Christian Voluntary Mission, was waiting in line to buy another set of clothes for himself and his wife because they had only the clothes they wore when they escaped from Phu Quoc Island by fishing boat. When they put to sea, their only hope was that the U.S. 7th Fleet would be standing offshore. It was.

Flight was familiar to a Vietnamese doctor who, until recently, headed a hospital at Nha Trang.

"This is the fourth exodus for me," he said. "In 1948, I left my hometown (in North Vietnam) for Hanoi. In 1952 I left Hanoi for Saigon. In 1975, Nha Trang for Saigon. After that, Saigon for Arkansas. After each leaving, I left everything."

Across the street from the PX, Tran Dan Dhieu and a few friends sat in the sun on the steps of their barracks. For 18 years, Dhieu said, he worked for the U.S. government in Vietnam.

"Maybe I am entitled to American citizenship. Is that so?" he asked hopefully.

Dhieu's last job was as a quality assurance specialist with the Defense Attache Office. Only about a quarter of the Vietnamese who so worked in his section were evacuated, he said.

"It breaks our hearts that some Americans in California welcomed us with tomatoes," Dhieu said, but he is grateful for the reception he has received at Chaffee and the treatment here.

The soldiers supporting the refugee operation, Dhieu said, "work 24 hours, in three shifts a day. It's a lot of work. You have some good people."

"All of our people are very grateful to your government."

Refugees who fled the Indochina Armageddon gathered one May morning at Camp Pendleton, Calif., to worship in the ways of their ancestors, forging a link across space and time with their past.

They were led by Thich Tri Son, a Vietnamese Buddhist priest, and two Thai Buddhists, one of whom addressed the rows of kneeling Vietnamese in English as Tri Son translated.

"I don't mind any form of government, whether democracy or communism," he said softly, "but if the people have freedom to practice Buddhism, then let them rule the country any way they want to."

Dressed in a traditional saffron robe adorned with a gate pass from the Pendleton provost marshal, the priest led the people in rhythmic chanting as some of the old women fingered prayer beads and swayed in time with the prayers.

Since early May, military chaplains at all of the refugee reception centers have been coping with some unusual requirements to provide spiritual nourishment for a far-flung congregation of 120,000 refugees.

Chaplains at Pendleton estimated that about 50 percent of the refugees there were Buddhists, 45 percent were Catholics, and the remainder adhered to a variety of beliefs.

"Mohammed had a request in the other day," said Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Evan J. (Gus) Greco, who speculated that the Moslem's request for spiritual guidance could lead to The Ultimate Requisition — a Vietnamese-language Koran. However, Greco and other chaplains were seriously concerned about how to assist the lone Moslem.

It was Father Greco who baptized the first two refugee children at Camp Pendleton, using the same site as another Franciscan used in 1769 to baptize the first Catholic child in California.

Each of the tent areas at Pendleton has been organized as a parish, each with its own Vietnamese priest who will remain until the last refugee is gone.

The first Mass was celebrated May 1 with 40 refugees participating, but there are now six Masses a day, attracting as many as 2000 people.

Protestant services began May 4, and average attendance is about 70 persons at each of three services a day. Navy chaplains are assisted by Pham Xuan Hien, who serves as Vietnamese Protestant chaplain to the refugees.

Navy Chaplain (Cmdr.) Mel Willard spent a strange day in May, roaming the back alleys of Los Angeles' Chinatown and Little Tokyo in search of Buddha.

Chaplain Willard, a Presbyterian, was accompanied by a Buddhist monk as a technical adviser. The monk insisted that the Vietnamese and Cambodian

refugees needed different styles of statues of Buddha because the Cambodian Buddha has a top knot.

After a hectic day, Willard returned to Pendleton with \$500 worth of esoteric religious paraphernalia, including statues of Buddha, ceremonial bells and other soundmakers, wooden fish

and 30 boxes of joss sticks.

Several chaplains interviewed said that their administrative work had been put aside while they set up religious programs for the refugees, but none of them seemed to mind.

At Fort Chaffee, Ark., a census of refugees showed that there were 9071 Buddhists, 5600 Cath-

olics, 1022 Protestants, 890 Confucians, and a number of Cao Dai, Brahma, Jews and others.

Catholic services are conducted at four chapels by three Catholic chaplains and several of the 13 Vietnamese priests in the camp, one of whom serves as an "auxiliary chaplain."

Four Protestant chaplains use

the single Protestant chapel, which so far has proved adequate.

Chaplain (Maj.) Jan Friend said there are three Buddhist priest at Chaffee, and "a Buddhist place — we call it for convenience 'The Pagoda' — has been set aside for their use.

LEE EWING



FATHER PHAN DINH CHO, left, the first Vietnamese refugee Catholic priest to arrive at Camp Pendleton, Calif., officiates at a baptism of a refugee child as Father Evan Greco, a Navy chaplain, assists. See related story next page.

NEWSPAPER

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Hqtrs. MARINE CORPS.

CAMP PENDLETON, CA.

REFUGEE CLIPS

17 June 1975

File

Vietnamese Refugees Become U.S. Scouts

CAMP PENDLETON — The international spirit of brotherhood was prevalent when more than 260 Vietnamese and San Luis Rey District Scouters met at Camp Pendleton yesterday.

The occasion was the welcoming of the Lac Viet group, named for the first family to move south from China more than 4,000 years ago to start the Vietnamese nation, into the Boy Scouts of America. More than 200 boys and 30 adult leaders registered.

Language and cultural barriers were hard to believe when witnessing exchange of skits, songs, games, skills and traditions with the Vietnamese Scouters.

Lee V. Barkley, San Luis Rey district chairman; John Ackerman, San Diego County Council scout executive; and Bill Kephart, Western Region Area 4 representative were on hand to welcome the Lac Viet into the Boy Scouts of America and San Diego County Council.

The county Scout leaders also turned over a pickup

load of donated uniform items, Scout books, backpacks, a typewriter, even a bugle to the Vietnamese Scouts.

The gear was accepted by Trac Truong. Trong, who was the National Scout Commissioner in Saigon where he directed 15,000 Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Rovers. He said the "Tu Loc" on his neckerchief clasp means "Do It Yourself."

Trong presented Ackerman a flag, made at Camp Pendleton by Vietnamese den mothers, with the National Vietnam Scout emblem. Kephart received a National Vietnam Scout patch.

District chairman, Lee Barkley, installed Trong as a San Luis Rey assistant district commissioner and presented him with the respective insignia and San Diego County Council patch.

While at Camp Pendleton Trong will be responsible for the administration of BSA programs through San Luis Rey District which has the overall responsibility of coordination.

Barkley said, "The Vietnamese refugees wanted to participate in a familiar activity and continue to do their best to do their duty to religion and community therefore enhancing their acceptance into their new environment."

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Viet Refugee Agency Under Rising Attack

Complaints of Lost Files, Delays, Unfair Treatment Voiced Against Pendleton Unit

BY KATHY BURKE
Times Staff Writer

The largest of the voluntary agencies set up at Camp Pendleton to resettle Vietnamese refugees is being criticized by growing numbers of them as ineffective.

The complaints against the United States Catholic Conference include claims that files have been misplaced or lost, it is taking too long to find sponsors and that Vietnamese workers are giving preferential treatment to relatives or friends or in exchange for bribes.

As a result, many refugees recently have sought to withdraw their applications from the agency in order to reapply at one of the other six on the base.

The complaints have cropped up in recent weeks as the wait lengthened for many refugees who signed up a month ago or more for a sponsor.

Each refugee who signs up with USCC is given a green card with a number on it. They are handed out consecutively as the refugees register with the agency.

In the six weeks since the USCC began operating, refugees with higher numbers often obtained sponsors before those who had signed up earlier.

This has led to a measure of discontent.

It has multiplied as scores of refugees have sought unsuccessfully to have a look at their files or speak to an American, rather than Vietnamese, workers about their situations.

They complain to their camp leaders, to the Vietnamese worker at the USCC inquiry desk and to each other. And many are no longer merely dissatisfied or impatient—they are angry.

Joseph Battaglia, director of USCC on the base, said he "could not accept the charges." Such assertions by the Vietnamese are, he said, a predictable symptom of what he termed "campitis."

"First of all," he explained, "we don't go by numbers in placing refugees. We go by job placements."

If a request for sponsorship specified a family head with a certain type of job skill, Battaglia said, that family would be placed before one with an earlier USCC number without such a skill.

As for complaints about missing or lost files, Battaglia said "there has

never been one file lost" within the agency's offices on the base.

He added that the refugees' complaints about the files stem from their lack of understanding about the way the agency operates.

"It's not that their file isn't here. It's going through a mill," he explained, referring to the process by which a file moves from one to another of the agency's two tents and three trailers.

"What the refugee has been doing is going into all the different trailers asking for his file," he said. "Many couldn't get the answer they wanted in their desperation."

Despite the refugees' allegations of inefficiency, more than 15,000 persons have been moved out of the camp since it opened April 28.

Battaglia emphasized that of the seven agencies on the base placing refugees, USCC has placed more than 5,000 of them, more than all the other agencies combined.

Handling more refugees as it does there are a greater number of Vietnamese pressing USCC for sponsors than the other agencies.

Battaglia said he became aware of the problems about two weeks ago and that as a result the inquiry desk was set up.

Battaglia explained that a refugee signs up on a list to see his file and it is available for him within a day or a day-and-a-half. He can then learn the status of his case.

But the angry men who gather daily at the inquiry desk do not seem satisfied with the knowledge that their file might be more easily available, particularly those who have been waiting since early May.

On a recent morning, about two dozen men, most of them trying to cancel their applications at USCC, converged on the desk and began shouting at the Vietnamese worker there.

"It has been too long—I want to withdraw my name," one said.

"We have no confidence in USCC," another shouted.

"Nothing gets done here," a third said.

Outside the tent, one young man explained his difficulty. He is Nov. 1939, alone in this country, and a Japanese woman who came to Camp Pendleton decided to sponsor him.

Continued from Third Page

The forms were completed, except for the young man's USCC number, which he had forgotten. He was told to bring it back to the office the next morning, which he did, giving it to a Vietnamese worker.

He said the file was complete and he was asked to wait at his tent until he was called. That was May 21.

He waited until June 2, then returned to USCC to ask about his file. It took five days to locate the file, and when it was, the sponsor's affidavit was missing.

The young man complained to an American worker and made out a new application for that sponsor.

Quang is No. 2602. He arrived here with a sponsor waiting for him—Quang's sister and her American husband.

He applied at USCC May 12. His American brother-in-law submitted an affidavit of sponsorship for Quang's entire family of nine.

But when Quang went to the Immigration and Naturalization Service on May 17, his file contained only two names—his and his son's.

(The entire family already had received security clearances, Quang said, so that was not the reason for the omissions).

When contacted by a Times reporter, Quang had returned to the USCC office for a third day to get the matter straightened out.

Thang was given card No. 240 when he applied at USCC the day he arrived at the beginning of May.

"When I checked with USCC about a week ago, I found my file was gone," he said through an interpreter.

"I was told the file may have been destroyed because my application was incomplete. But they never informed me it was incomplete.

"I went there many times to speak with the Vietnamese worker. But I was always told he was too busy to see me.

"I couldn't see anyone else, either. I got so discouraged I left to apply at another agency."

Numerous complaints and allegations also have been lodged by Vietnamese with the Vietnamese leaders in the camps.

Most refugees are fearful of doing any more than checking on the status of their case with the inquiry desk.

chances of getting a sponsor.

Many of them also have said they do not want to harm the cause of the refugees by expressing their dissatisfaction.

Hue, a Vietnamese registered with USCC who had a sponsor when he arrived but is awaiting a security clearance, said he has talked with men who feel they have a solution of their own.

"Many people want to beat the Vietnamese workers up—especially one man there. They say they do not even have time to ask him anything before he sends them away."

Pham Duc Thu, the camp leader at Camp 4, said he, too, has spoken with many angry men who have the same idea.

Battaglia said a tendency among the Vietnamese to blame Vietnamese workers is predictable.

But rather than hide anything from him, he added that his own Vietnamese counselors had told him of the complaints.

He blamed the mistrust on a rumor dispersed through-

At one Camp, a Vietnamese lawyer working in the command post said nearly 100 complaints about USCC were brought in during a recent week.

He said they involved everything from misplaced files to uncooperative Vietnamese workers to allegations of good sponsors being obtained in return for bribes.

At Camp 5, the Vietnamese camp leader said through an interpreter that so many refugees had come to complain about USCC and the Vietnamese workers there that he "decided to open an investigation of my own."

The camp leader, Huynh Ngoc Nghia, said he went to the central USCC office and pretended to be inquiring after his file.

"The Vietnamese workers there just showed me around," Nghia said.

"Then, a few days ago, they introduced me to an American woman who works there. She recognized me as a camp leader.

"She explained all the difficulties USCC is having matching sponsors with refugees."

Nghia said the woman admitted to him that "most of the Vietnamese workers at USCC are inexperienced. They are not familiar with the interview process and often commit errors in writing or checking the papers."

Despite the many complaints that circulate throughout the camps, most Vietnamese involved are fearful of doing any more than checking on the status of their case with the inquiry desk.

There is a consensus among them, however unjustified, that any complaint they file in writing would harm their

out the camps by an American volunteer to the effect that sponsors could be gained illegally at USCC. **Los Angeles Times Mon., June 16, 1975 - Part 1 11**

He emphasized the rumor had been laid to rest by naval intelligence officers.

But some Vietnamese like Phuong are not easily convinced.

"More than a week ago," he said through an interpreter, "I was standing in line near the processing center when a woman passed by.

"She recognized a woman standing next to me, a friend of hers who did not yet have a sponsor. The woman passing by said she had gotten a sponsor after paying \$50 to a Vietnamese worker at USCC."

Phu, 29, also is mistrustful.

She was recently told by the command post in her camp to go to the USCC office because they had found a sponsor for her and her family of 11.

A Vietnamese woman at the USCC trailer told Phu that if her family accepted sponsorship of a priest in Kansas, he would give them an advance of \$6,000 to help them settle there.

Phu told the woman she could not decide immediately and would come back in the morning. When she returned to say she would accept the priest's sponsorship, she was told he was sponsoring another family.

"My family and I were very unhappy," she said. "We were angry.

"But we returned to our tent because there was nothing else to do. We don't speak much English, and even if we could, we can only speak to Vietnamese when we go up there.

"We took our names off the list at USCC and applied to another agency. We are hoping to have better luck there."

Battaglia said a recent decision by the directors of all the voluntary agencies that refugees could no longer transfer agencies was not expected to be a popular one among the refugees.

He said he believed USCC would receive the brunt of complaints about that decision, because "we just happen to be the largest"....

He emphasized that the agency continues to have the highest case load of any of the agencies.

He repeated his belief that the dissatisfaction "is something that exists in all refugee camps. It's born out of their desperation.

"But I can't go by what the Vietnamese say. They don't understand how we're doing things here—and there's no time for a tour."

Monday, June 16, 1975

Ky Suggests Base Jobs For Ex-Saigon Troops

By DONALD H. HARRISON
Staff Writer

The San Diego Union

CAMP PENDLETON — Former South Vietnamese Premier Nguyen Cao Ky suggested yesterday that former military men of his nation should be employed as civilian workers at U.S. military installations.

"They have the training, after all," said Ky, as he emerged from a tent where he had been meeting some former high-ranking South Vietnamese air force personnel, including Generals Nguyen Huu Tan, Nguyen Ngoc Oanh and Nguyen Van Luong.

Ky said many of his countrymen would like to join the military if Congress enacts legislation permitting them to do so. He added they would gladly accept lesser ranks than they held in South Vietnam.

It was Ky's first visit to Camp Pendleton since he left under the sponsorship of the organization Food for the Hungry several weeks ago.

CROWD GATHERS

A crowd of refugees gathered around him as he emerged from his meeting with the generals. For almost half an hour he answered their questions about life on the outside.

The conversation was in Vietnamese, but an English-speaking refugee said Ky was suggesting that the U.S. government should establish farm settlements for the refugees rather than keep them at military installations.

"He says that way we could work and not be so

dependent," the informant said.

Ky told newsmen many refugees are not yet ready to take their places in American society on their own.

"The United States is very complicated," he said. "You have to learn about it before you can be integrated."

FATHERS FETED

As Ky spoke, a YMCA-led drum and bugle corps passed by the tent, stealing some of his audience. They were marching to another portion of Tent Camp No. 4, where a 79-year-old man, Nguyen Van Tuat, was being presented with a cake for being the oldest father in the camp, and Nguyen Tien Huan was being given a special father-of-the-year award.

Huan's wife still is in South Vietnam, and he has been caring for his two daughters, aged 4 and 5.

Lou Guanson, an International YMCA volunteer from Hawaii, said Father's Day is unknown in Vietnam, "and we wanted to make it a special occasion."

To speeches and cheering, all fathers in the crowd were presented with white carnations.

At Tent Camp No. 1, meanwhile, Buddhist monks were officiating at three simultaneous weddings.

NEAR MISS

A brother of one of the grooms, Le Quang Dung, said Dung almost was without a bride. When Dung left Saigon on April 22, the brother said, his bride-to-be, Nguyen Thi Nga, decided to remain with her family. But

her family told her that her place was with him, and "she dashed to the airport to catch up with us."

She missed her fiance's plane, but was able to find his sister, who was taking a later flight.

Somehow, she got to Camp Pendleton before Dung did, and they were reunited last month.

Earlier in the day, Assemblyman Robert Badham, R-San Diego and Orange counties, toured the refugee camp, which is in his district. He said he was told by Nick Thorne, head of the civilian Interagency Task Force here, that officials no longer expect to complete the refugee operation here by October.

"Now they think it will take a lot longer," Badham said. "Some of the people coming in (from Guam) will be difficult to place."

Y ASKS HELP FOR REFUGEES

YMCA volunteers working with Southeast Asian refugees at Camp Pendleton have issued a plea for musical instruments, balls and other athletic equipment.

"We particularly need soccer balls, volleyballs and basketballs," a YMCA spokesman said. "There also is a need for any kind of musical instrument."

Persons wishing to contribute should contact Boris Kazimiroff, YMCA official in charge of the Camp Pendleton office.

Some Music, a Little Play Make Life a Lot Lighter for Refugees

By RUDY AVERSA

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer.

CAMP PENDLETON — The younger children scamper about the dust and the brush scattering bubbles blown from a wand while their older brothers and sisters slap a volleyball over a net. Tonight both young and old will listen to live music or take in a movie.

Involved in the exhilaration of physical exercise or the quiet joy of watching entertainers perform or the simple joy of sheer play, many of the Vietnamese refugees, on the fringes of two distinct worlds, forget past problems and draw a deeper breath of a new life.

"Brooding in a tent can make problems seem larger than their true proportions, but if that energy can be released in constructive fun it might help in the transition from refugee to a new identity," said Boris Kasimirov, director of the Young Mens Christian Association contingent in Camp Pendleton which coordinates programs of recreation and entertainment for the 15,000 residents of "Little Saigon."

For more than a month the YMCA has been involving 2,000 to 5,000 persons in daily athletic recreation and as many as 13,000 persons daily are entertained by mimes, puppet shows, drama groups, jazz combos and marching bands. Average attendance at nightly movie showings is about 10,000.

"The national and international divisions of the YMCA are involved at all camps where refugees are being sent although the Y's role differs at each camp," said Kasimirov.

"It's really exciting working here," said Kasimirov as he stood outside the Y trailer and smiled at the young boys bouncing balls and girls carrying freshly picked flowers. "We are blessed with a good staff full of enthusiasm."

Of the 12 full-time workers, three are coordinators and nine are staff members carrying out the recreation and entertainment programs run simultaneously at the six camp areas. There are four centrally situated amphitheaters serving as both playing field for volleyball, basketball and soccer games and as meeting places for watching entertainers such as Rosemary Clooney and Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass and viewing motion pictures. Recreation programs are run in cycles from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 5 p.m. There are entertainment programs day and night.

The Y leaders work with both the military structure which is primarily responsible for food, shelter and security of the refugees and the Vietnamese infrastructure composed of the mayors and leaders who work with the military in planning the health, education and welfare of the refugees.

Aside from learning about American culture, the refugees are also finding it easier to accept Americans as co-workers through their involvement in the program.

"We are beginning intercamp competition

in both volleyball and table tennis," said Kasimirov, who adds that "We want to expose the people to as many activities as is normal in our society." There are mass activities designed for the youngsters such as dodge ball and circle games. There are also less strenuous activities such as chess and checkers.

Entertainment programs consist of children's shows, high school and college bands and drama groups, yoga, sports exhibitions and international dancing. A number of professional entertainers have donated their services and Kasimirov says, the Y welcomes any program not of a religious or political nature.



This youngster will soon send his bubble into the ocean winds that have chapped his cheeks.

"There are many talented people among the refugees," Kasimirov points out. There are many musicians such as accordion players and rock music guitarists. The Y is organizing talent shows at each camp to be climaxed by a gigantic talent show of top refugee entertainers at Camp Pendleton.

Another project the Y involved in along with the Marines and other volunteer agencies is a spectacular Fourth of July celebration which Kasimirov hopes will give refugees a good view of American spirit and traditions. "The U.S. is a nation of immigrants. Our citizens come from nearly every part of the world," he said.

The YMCA would like to be able to develop individualized physical fitness programs, but

because many refugees are processed in 10 to 20 days the camp population is too transient at present. For the refugees who may stay longer because of difficulty securing a sponsor or problems in paper work, Kasimirov would like to put them on such a program.

With summer fast approaching, Kasimirov would also like to develop a swimming program with lessons for those who don't know how to swim, but he said lack of facilities may be a problem in making it a reality.

"There are many programs we would like to try but because the staff is so small we even find it difficult to rotate our workers from one area to another," said Kasimirov, who highly praised four young Marines, who, in addition to doing their regular chores, have been donating much of their free time to working with the young refugees.

Ernie Bell is one Marine who cooks for the refugees when at work and when off-duty can be seen handing out bottles of soap and magic wands to children so they can blow their own bubbles. Bell does just about everything working in both recreation and entertainment programs for the Y.

But Kasimirov says there is still a need for as many volunteers as would like to donate their time to working with the refugees.

"We would like to have 20 more volunteers workers in each camp area," said Kasimirov who said volunteers who can work two or three hours a day, one or more days a week on a regular basis will be quickly put to use. "We don't need organizers but workers. We have the chiefs, we need Indians," said Kasimirov.

There is also a need for more recreational equipment. Some Marines are donating their time making ping pong tables, but the nets, paddles and balls are needed.

"We can use any kind of beach balls, footballs, all types and sizes," said Kasimirov.

The YMCA is seeking to raise \$1 million to continue operation at Pendleton and the other bases. The organization is also planning to get all 1,800 local Y groups active in the refugee resettlement by encouraging Ys to sponsor a person or family. "By becoming involved in helping the refugees adjust to a new life, all members will feel a special sense of togetherness," said Kasimirov.

The YMCA international division has been developing Y programs overseas for more than 80 years, training indigenous leaders to coordinate their own Y programs. It has special expertise in working with Asians.

There was a YMCA organization in South Vietnam and many of the Y members were able to leave the country and are now in resettlement camps, said Kasimirov, who added that the Y intends to keep in contact with these members.

Asked how long the Y will continue to provide recreation and entertainment for refugees in view of reports that the resettlement operation will continue until 1976, Kasimirov said, "We'll be here as long as we're needed."



Volunteers need more basketballs for YMCA's makeshift athletic program.



A simple fence serves as a jungle gym and a flat grassy area sees duty as a soccer field for energetic Viet refugee children.

HERALD*EXAMINER

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REFUGEES

New Lives Stir Hope, Confusion

BY BELLA STUMBO
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—Six weeks ago they were living together in a tent at Camp Pendleton, three families of 13 persons.

Now, the wives, the children and the grandmother have not seen each other for more than a month because they live miles apart and do not understand the bus system.

So they spend hours on the telephone reliving past times and wondering about those they left behind.

The old woman dreams of a day when all Vietnamese refugees might live together in one close neighborhood, perhaps somewhere in suburban Arlington, where there are two small Vietnamese markets that sell the right kind of noodles and fish sauce and even rice paper.

The very thought brings a smile to her face, which might be anywhere from 60 to 90 years old. She knows only that she was born a long time ago in a North Vietnamese village, during an age when it was fashionable for women to paint their teeth with indelible black enamel, like hers.

Gently, she picks up her sleeping grandson, Son, 15 months old, and pads barefooted onto the small, screened front porch, where she passes many hours each day rocking the baby and humming Vietnamese tunes and gazing into space.

Pham Van Dai, 36, her son, watches her without expression or comment. A slender, handsome young man with sharp, alert features and quick, restless mannerisms, he is dressed in a white T-shirt, thin slacks and blue rubber thongs. He reaches for the Michelob at his elbow and comments wryly on the heat and the humidity so much like Saigon but a far cry from cold Camp Pendleton.

His wife, Huong, 29, descends the stairs, a tiny woman in blue brocade pajamas who smiles self-consciously, almost bows and says several times over, "Hello," one of the few English words she knows. Then she disappears into the kitchen and the oldest child, Nguyen, 6, quickly follows.

Although the house is small and no door separates the kitchen from the living room, the silence is absolute. It is hard to imagine what mother and son are doing there, how the woman keeps the boy so quiet while his father is speaking.

Now, Pham Van is stating the obvious. Naturally his wife and mother are very lonely, living in suburban Alexandria, because they have nothing to do all day except clean the house, cook and care for the four children.

"But someday, perhaps, I will own a car to carry them around to visit." Someday, too, he will enroll his wife in English classes. And, adds Pham Van Dai, who owned two homes in Saigon, "Maybe in 15 or 20 years I can also own a house in America, near other Vietnamese." Someday.

He is smiling, no bitterness in the comment, because Pham Van feels blessed to have any house at all. The two other refugee families are still living with their sponsors. He feels even more fortunate when he considers the estimated 100,000 Vietnamese who are still living in tents, where they may remain for months, awaiting resettlement.

Most refugees do not have the sup-

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port of an organization like the Voice of America, which cut through red tape to get these Vietnamese out of Pendleton in record time and has done its best ever since to make them as comfortable as possible in their new homeland.

"Aw, hell, these people were loyal, dedicated employees of the United States government in Saigon and we're not gonna dress it up in a lot of heroics . . . or excuses either, for that matter. We just look at it as a case of a few little people who came to this country, capable and wanting to work and needing help. So we're givin' it to 'em. And if some people resent it, damned if I'm gonna quote to 'em from the Statue of Liberty. If they don't know what's on it, WE do!"

That's Bernard H. Kamenske talking. Kamenske, chief of the VOA news division, is referring to the three Vietnamese VOA has hired, creating special job slots for two of them.

It infuriates Kamenske when he has to explain that not only was it the moral thing to do but also it's le-

Their long-range hopes are modest—to buy a car, perhaps someday a home.

gal, too. Even if the Vietnamese don't have their residency papers completely processed, they're still allowed to work on a part-time basis without the fixed salary and benefits of regular government employees.

And, Kamenske adds, they are working part-time, even if their hours usually do add up to about five full work days.

Kamenske seems to relish his own remarkable candor. An articulate, huge man, he often dramatizes his points with abruptly lowered tones, deeply patient sighs, assorted creative profanities and occasional snorts.

Placing his immense legs upon a desk, he says that Xuan, 23, a former VOA secretary, is a transcriber and clerk at \$33 a day.

Pham Van Dai (P.T.), a VOA reporter in Saigon, monitors broadcasts and serves as a consultant on current Vietnamese affairs. He earns \$40 a day.

Vinh, 50, a retired broadcaster for the U.S. Information Service (USIS), has been rehired, earning as much as \$54 a day, depending on his number of broadcasts.

Jobs for both men were specially created. Even if millions of Americans are hurting in a period of high unemployment and inflation, Kamenske's not apologizing.

For one thing, "we need Vietnamese here who are familiar with the current leaders in Saigon." Secondly, most Americans don't want part-time work. And, third, the jobs will probably only be temporary anyway.

Then, leaning across the desk, his hushed voice suggesting some top-level secret, "But I'll tell you this much . . . Most of the VOA staff are willing to put their asses on the line for these people because they saved ours plenty of times in Saigon. Especially P.T. He was one of the finest journalists in Southeast Asia."

If Kamenske exaggerates, it's not by much. Because within the past month, the VOA staff not only located a church group willing to rent to P.T. a two-bedroom house for \$150 a month but they also totally furnished it.

They donated everything from an assortment of sagging chairs, and creaking beds to boxloads of lamps,

toys, plastic flowers, clothing and more dishes than even a family of seven can use.

The staff also is taking up a collection for down payments on two motorscooters for the men, plus apartment deposits for Xuan, accompanied here by her sister, 20, and for Vinh, who has a wife and two teen-age daughters. (Both of the latter names are fictitious, since they fear for relatives remaining in Saigon.)

But the warmth and friendship extended by the VOA staff can alleviate the uncertainty these refugees feel—their fear of a jobless tomorrow in a strange land among people who sometimes glare resentfully at them on buses, who have no patience with their halting English in shops and who occasionally suggest openly that Vietnamese have no business competing in the American marketplace.

It is a hostility the Vietnamese cannot understand, although friends try to soften the impact.

But they continue to smile, eternally polite, and hope for the best, as people without options generally do.

Besides, they must improve their English quickly. They must learn to manage their money wisely. They must learn to eat, dress and think like Americans. They also must learn to understand such curious customs as between-meal snacks, couples living together out of wedlock, happy hours and vast yards where no vegetable gardens grow.

At age 50, Vinh is the oldest of the three Vietnamese employed by VOA. He also was the last to be formally hired, two weeks after Xuan and P.T., because he had retired last January in Saigon, after 25 years' service with the U.S. government, mostly with USIS.

Today is his second day at work. He is sitting in the Vietnamese news office, quietly reading the copy for his first broadcast from America, a reticent, gentle man, both slender and graceful, casually dressed in khaki pants, a yellow shirt with a button-down collar and white canvas sneakers.

Vinh had lived well in Saigon. He owned his own home, a car, a TV and most of the other imported luxuries that only the affluent, or those with access to the American PX, could afford.

If he has any private worries, they do not show in features smooth and serene enough to pass for 40 or less. But his eyes show age, filled with a sadness that seems timeless, although it probably dates back no more than a few months, when Vinh's world fell apart.

"My aspiration, after I retired in Saigon, was to live on my annuity in the countryside," he says. "Because I always lived in Saigon . . . such a noisy city, so crowded. I wished—how do you say—to spend my last days in peace." He shrugs, gazing at the floor, no expression in his quiet voice.

"Now, of course, I cannot realize my aspiration. Now my aspiration is only to make enough money in America to feed my family, to find a house and, perhaps, later to buy a car—that is all."

Almost casually, he adds that only last week, before VOA finally found a job for him, he had decided to return to a refugee camp rather than "further burden my sponsor."

(His sponsor, a retired VOA correspondent living in Maryland, is also an old friend from the days both men

The refugees' talents are needed, an executive at Voice of America said.

covered the Paris peace talks.)

"I thought that if I go with my family to a camp, perhaps they can train me to do some job, perhaps gardening, or street cleaner or messenger—any work Americans do not want to do."

He smiles faintly, no self-pity in his tone. Why should he feel sorry for himself?

"When I make the decision to leave my country, I know I must give up everything. I must accept all hardship."

Yes, he says, he is sad. Sad like many refugees, because someone is missing. His son, 23, was in the South Vietnamese air force.

"He encouraged me to go," says Vinh, "and he says he can escape afterward. But he does not arrive . . ."

Vinh's voice trails off, a flat monotone, and he shakes his head as if to clear it of useless thought. It is now important, even critical, to think in terms of the whole, not the parts.

And, as a whole, Vinh regards himself as fortunate.

He has most of his family here—many good friends—now the job.

And he has freedom. Freedom to survive, to succeed. Freedom is the priceless possession. There is no doubt in his mind.

Perhaps because she is young, only 25, and very beautiful (an oriental woman who stands an astonishing 5 feet 10 inches) and is responsible for only one sister, 20, Xuan is the opposite of Vinh.

She approaches everything American, with the grasping, exultant innocence of a child visiting Disneyland for the first time.

It is a characteristic not only enchanting but contagious as well. When she stands on a street corner at dusk, marveling at the beauty of the Capitol dome, it suddenly does take on a special, new brilliance.

When she points to her new brown sandals and exclaims that they cost \$14 and a girl at VOA actually lent her the entire sum to buy them, suddenly both the sum and the gesture seem remarkable indeed.

When Xuan says, "Now I understand why Americans so much hated the war, because everything in your country is so lovely and peaceful," it is easy to forget that only a few blocks away is one of the ugliest slums in America.

Xuan even accepts occasional insults with implacable patience. Americans just don't know the Vietnamese yet. But, in time, the hostilities will pass. Especially if the refugees set a good example.

"Like the other day," she says, choosing her words carefully, "A man said to me that he believed all Vietnamese girls were bad. And, at first I was so hurt. Then, I realized he does not find me bad. So his ideas now change."

Xuan and her sister, TyTy (a nickname meaning something equivalent to "tiny") live in a two-story, brick row house on a relatively fashionable, shady, crime-free street on Capitol Hill, a 15-minute walk from work.

Please Turn to Page 12, Col. 1

Continued from Third Page

Their sponsors are Jeff Sandmann, 30, a VOA staff writer, and Carol Sargeant, 26, an editor at the Library of Congress. Other occupants of the house include Charles McCollum, 27, a free lance rock music critic and two big dogs of doubtful origins, Puffy and Gibraltar.

Removing her shoes at the door, Xuan leads the way upstairs to their room.

The bedroom is about the size of a large bathroom, with an automatic washing machine against one wall, a twin bed near another. There is barely space in the center for the pink-sheeted mattress protruding from beneath the bed.

Xuan giggles again, a light, tinkling sound, and says they didn't even have beds at home. Everybody slept on the floor. What's more, her room in Saigon was even smaller and three sisters shared it, not two.

She pauses, and an anxious moment passes. Six weeks ago, at Camp Pendleton, the mere mention of her parents and sister in Saigon was almost enough to reduce her to tears. She had not wanted to come to America but her father, a local journalist, insisted, since she had worked so closely with the Americans.

But that was six weeks ago. Now Xuan only looks somber.

It's hot inside the house, so the entire household is sitting on the tiny, enclosed patio out back. The three Americans are sipping cocktails and TyTy is drinking warm water for reasons even Xuan can't explain, except to say that "perhaps she remembers the cold nights at Pendleton still."

Jeff Sandmann and Carol Sargeant are like everybody else at VOA. They don't expect any applause. They're getting plenty in return.

For starters, they've got two extra hands to share the cooking and they're acquiring a taste for Vietnamese food. And TyTy, having nothing else to do all day, has become full-time housekeeper.

"But it's so much more than that," says Sargeant, "We've been taking them sightseeing and shopping and to movies and it's just great to watch them react, just like children. So we find that we're starting to notice small, common things more, too, things we normally take for granted."

"You get down to basics, too," Sandmann adds. "Like last week, all three of us were trying to define desegrega-

tion for Xuan. And, suddenly we realized how many loaded words there are in the English dictionary, words that are a totally American experience with hidden social and political meanings that foreigners can't comprehend."

Suddenly TyTy, who has been sitting silently, makes a small sound, glancing first toward Xuan, then toward the radio sitting in the kitchen window. It is playing Simon and Garfunkel's "Scarsborough Fair."

Xuan smiles gently at her sister and she sounds tired as she tries to explain. "It is only that the song makes her homesick, because in Saigon we hear it very often. And our mother, especially, likes it very, very much."

Save for the tinkle of ice against glass, there is no other sound 'til the song is over.

Unlike Vinh and Nuan, Pham Van Dai—or P.T.—does not regard his American experience with either sorrow or excitement. He is simply frustrated, an aggressive and ambitious Vietnamese reporter, exceedingly articulate even in English, who suddenly finds himself confined to an office from 4 p.m. to midnight daily, unable "to do my job."

Now he is sitting at his desk in the VOA newsroom in the basement of the gigantic Department of Health, Education and Welfare building, ripping wire copy and roughly filing it in the proper boxes, marked by continent, region and country.

Occasionally, during idle moments, he simply paces the floor like some caged animal. It will take at least a year to learn English well enough to even apply for a job as a reporter, he says. Maybe longer.

Meantime, he only hopes to keep this job. He knows he's lucky to have it. But, he adds, "I do not say your country as a responsibility to give us work. Americans were not responsible for the war. The Communists were. Also, it was our choice to come here, to take our luck."

P.T. rips at another stack of wire copy as he talks. Really, he wants to return to Southeast Asia. It would be nice to be the VOA correspondent in Thailand.

Then he smiles, an expression half sad, half sardonic. VOA had better send him soon, because "I predict that within three years a national liberation front will form in Thailand and it, too, will fall to the Communists."

Already, he adds with authority, 50,000 Communists occupy northern regions of Thailand and "just look how weak the Thai government is already—one student can overthrow it!" P.T.'s laugh is harsh, derisive.

He continues, only half joking, saying perhaps the United States should maintain its refugee camps, even after the Vietnamese have been resettled. He glances up, his face flushed, perhaps angry, as he remembers the camps.

"Most important to all Vietnamese now is information about friends and relatives in other camps," he declares. "So why can't they organize daily newsletters among the camps?"

He would be happy to return to a camp to help in such a project.

Also, he continues, "they should not only teach English in the camps, but American culture as well. Like how to turn on gas stoves. And some Vietnamese don't even know how to switch on lights and TVs!"

Then P.T. suddenly is subdued, thinking perhaps he has no business telling the United States what to do. Still, he knows what is in store for the refugees once they are resettled, because his own wife still can't cope with the confusing prices and weights at the local Safeway.

P.T. frowns. A strange thing happened to him today on the way to the office.

"I met some black man along the street who asked me to give him money so he could eat. I looked at his clothes and they were very poor and he looked very upset."

"And so I asked him why he did not go to work. And he said he had no work . . ." P.T. looks baffled. "And, so I do not understand. In most political cities, you see only officials or the intelligentsia, the first-class citizens. And, besides, this man, he was very friendly and pleasant and he spoke well, so why can he not find work?"

The frown remains on P.T.'s face and he is silent for a few seconds, perhaps wondering how thin is the line separating him from that beggar roaming the streets of the capital.

He seems almost startled at the next question.

"Why, yes, of course I gave him something. I gave him \$1."

It is late and only two people remain in the dining room of the hotel, a man and a woman seated at adjacent tables. A single waiter hovers nearby, wishing they would hurry so he could go home.

The man, middle-aged and owner of a fertilizer company in the Midwest, is interested in sponsoring perhaps two Vietnamese to work for him, he says.

He couldn't pay them much, of course. But it would be enough to live on. He grins broadly. "Unless, of course, they're one of those who brought 25 relatives with 'em." Actually, he goes on, speaking louder now, it's a risky business taking on even a single Vietnamese.

"I mean, you can't make 'em sign contracts or anything, can you? So how do you know they'll be hard workers when you get 'em?" He frowns.

Even more important, "Is there any way you can make 'em stay on, after you train 'em? What if they just up 'n leave if they find a better offer?"

The woman is about to suggest that he has a mistaken concept of what sponsorship is all about, when the waiter strides up to the table.

"Look, buddy, you just stay away from those people. You don't wanna help anybody. What you want is an indentured slave."

The fertilizer maker stares, momentarily speechless. Then, instead of threatening to call the manager, which seemed likely, he flees, without a word, to his room.

The waiter is still boiling.

It turns out he is married to a Thai and his brother is married to a Vietnamese and the whole family is supporting six refugees, someplace in Oklahoma.

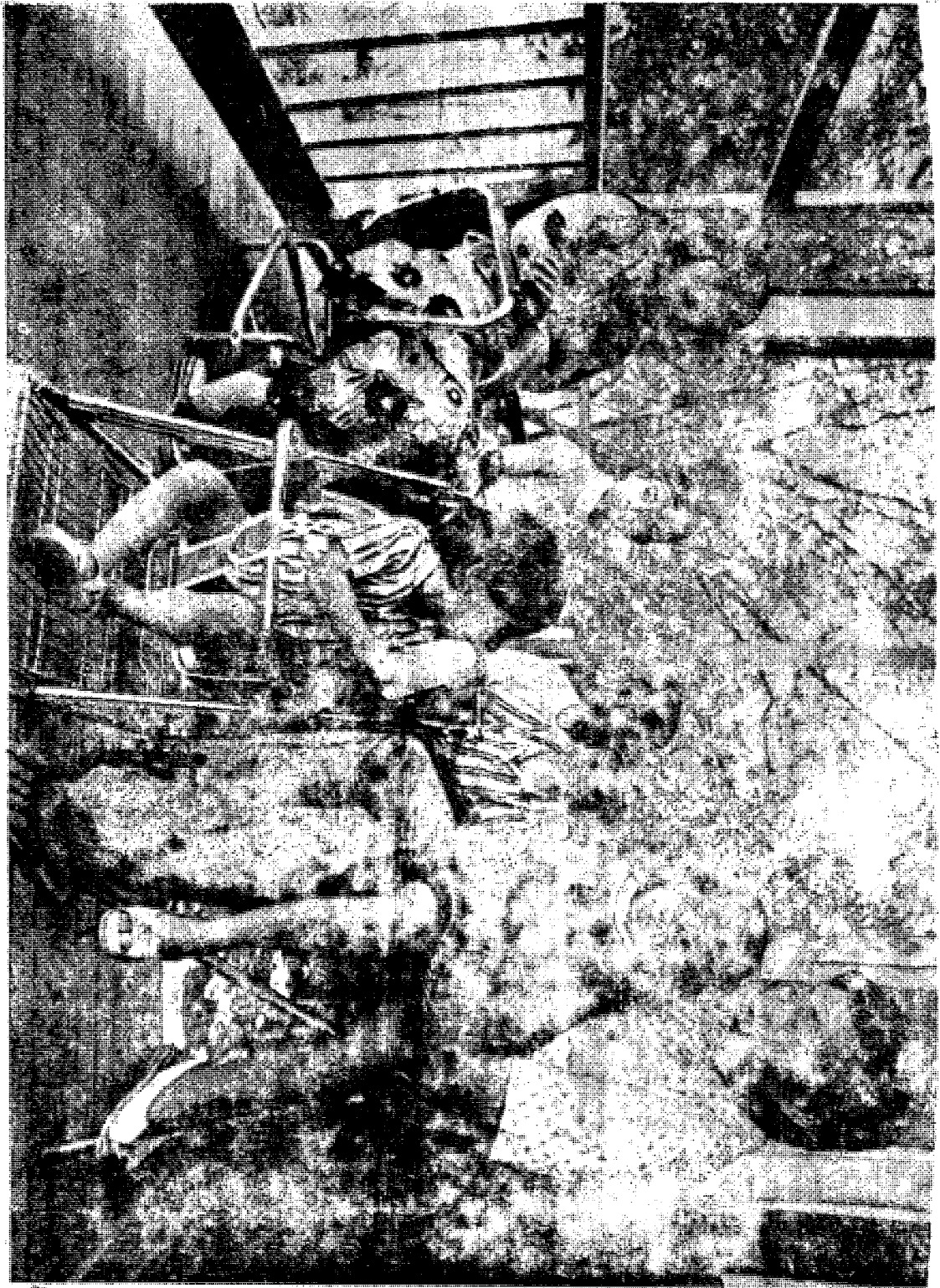


CONTAGIOUS ENTHUSIASM—Xuan at control console in Voice of America newsroom in Washington.

L. A. TIMES SECT. 1 PAGE 1 (cont) DATE 16 June 75

A NEW LIFE—Pham Van Dai and family on porch of their small house in Alexandria, Va. Voice of America cut red rope to get them out of camp.

Times photos by LeRoy W. Gordon Jr.



L. A. TIMES SECT. 1

PAGE 1

(cont)

DATE 16 June 75

Vietnamese Cite Family as Reason They Want To Return



No one knows yet how many Viet refugees will return home.

icy in all camps and placing regular notices in camp newspapers. Names of all individuals requesting return are then turned over to the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Although those wanting to return have not yet been "segregated" from the rest of the refugees in their camps, there is some feeling at the State Department that that may happen.

The individuals, meantime, have been asked to fill out a special questionnaire prepared by the UN High Commission in cooperation with the new Saigon government.

The forms are then turned over to Saigon, which eventually will notify the UN which refugees it is willing to take back.

According to State Department officials, Saigon has not yet asked for any specific refugees.

State officials say that they do not yet have any detailed breakdown on who the "returning" refugees are, except that it is believed that many are individuals who were accidentally "swept up" in the exodus from Viet-

nam, rather than deliberately seeking flight.

Mohammad Gharib, the representative for the UN High Commission now in Camp Pendleton, estimated that about 1,000 wanted to go home. That figure included those in the four U.S. refugee camps plus those still waiting in the Pacific.

Apparently it will be some time before anybody can return. The questionnaire being distributed by Gharib has to be routed through New York, Geneva, and Saigon.

Among the questions: Why did you leave, who are your family, where did you live previously?

A Vietnamese official at Ft. Chaffee, Ark., put the figure of those wishing to return there at "over 100." Reports had spoken of several hundred.

William Stubbs of the State Department interagency task force at Camp Pendleton said, "Almost all persons who indicated a desire to go back are males whose families remained in Vietnam."

By DAVID WINDER

and GUY HALVERSON

The Christian Science Monitor News Service

Phan Van Dieu, a former lieutenant colonel in the South Vietnamese Army, is counting the days before he can return to the Saigon he fled in panic only weeks ago.

"My sixth child. Just born. I have not seen him," he said, tears welling in his eyes. "I do not even know if he is a boy or a girl."

Phan Van Dieu is one of an estimated 1,000 refugees, about 1 per cent of the total of 120,000 refugees, who wish to return to Vietnam.

Almost to a man they cite family reasons.

Just how many wish to return or will be allowed to return, is still a matter of conjecture.

Ford administration policy remains, one State Department official says, "a belief in freedom of movement. If any Vietnam refugee would like to return to his homeland, we will take all appropriate steps to further that end."

The State Department is posting announcements about its "return" pol-

Ky Pledges to Fight Exploitation of Refugees

WEIMAR, Calif. (AP)—Former South Vietnamese Premier Nguyen Cao Ky pledged Friday to fight against exploitation of his fellow refugees in the American labor market.

At a news conference at a refugee center in the Sierra foothills, Ky told reporters:

"We want to have a decent life. We don't want to be slaves. We don't want to live for the next 15 or 20 years on welfare."

Asked what he meant by his remarks about slaves, Ky said that in any country there were good and bad people. Those included persons who would exploit others in the labor market, whether they were American or Vietnamese, he said.

"It is easier to exploit Vietnamese labor because we are desperate. There are those people who try to exploit us. I will do my best to see that does not happen."

Ky said he planned to stay in California for 10 days—part of that time at the Weimar Medical Center, where 275 refugees are being cared for by Food for the Hungry, Inc., a Glendale-based group.

The center, about 50 miles east of Sacramento, is a former tuberculosis treatment hospital that has not been used in recent months.

Ky said he planned to look at land in California because he would like to settle here where "the soil is rich and the people are nice."

Ky said he also planned to look at land in Arizona and Texas.

He said that the center, which has been renamed Hope Village, was a good way to approach refugee resettlement.

He added that he opposed individual sponsorship programs, because he believed refugees got more benefits out of a group approach.

11 Viet 'Pioneers' Stranded in Grove

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—A new life in America for 11 Vietnamese refugees began with their being stranded in a sweltering two-bedroom mobile home without electricity, running water or plumbing.

It was located in the middle of an isolated orange grove. Among the refugees was a 23-day-old baby.

Their sponsor, gray-haired Mary Kenny, said she gave the refugees a .22-caliber rifle when they arrived and told them to shoot at intruders. She also said that hardship was part of the American pioneer spirit.

"In Vietnam I was never afraid in the war," said Nguyen Phuc Bao Duc, a former Vietnamese army lieutenant colonel who lost his left leg and left arm in the war. "But here I am very afraid all the time."

"I stay here 12 days. Now I want to go back to Eglin (Air Force) Base refugee camp. If we know the way, we walk to the airport."

The refugees, members of two families, were moved to an Orlando hotel Thursday night after the Orlando Sentinel Star and the Red Cross learned of their plight.

Mrs. Kenny told the Sentinel she had hoped the refugees, all Saigon urban dwellers, would sharecrop hay and oranges on the 20-acre site near Ocoee, about 11 miles west of Orlando. Their rent would be \$166 a month.

She called the affair "a big mistake" and agreed the refugees should return to Eglin.

Mrs. Kenny blamed the problem on volunteer agencies at Eglin and a tenant who refused to move out of a trailer so that one of the refugee families could move in.

But the tenant, J. R. Blatchford, 67, denied he was asked to leave and said he had been hired as a "kind of watchman for the place."

Duc, his wife, 6-year-old daughter and 55-year-old aunt arrived at the trailer May 31. The next night, Nguyen Hong Giap, 48, his wife, their two young children and his 62-year-old mother-in-law, his sister-in-law and her baby, born at Eglin, arrived at the orange grove.

The trailer contained two beds and the children slept on the floor. The nearest water was more than a mile away. Because of the 90-degree temperatures dropping to the mid-70s at night, the children became feverish.

Otto Van Schaick, who leases the land to Mrs. Kenny and Mrs. Derry Sampen, who lives a mile away, said they had been delivering milk cartons of water to the trailer.

Of the Spartan facilities in the trailer, Mrs. Kenny said: "If these are the kind of people who are going to do this country any good, they've got to have the pioneer spirit."

Officials said they would try to resettle the family in the Orlando area.



STRANDED—Two families of Vietnamese refugees, 11 in all, outside trailer in a Florida orange grove.
AP Wirephoto

L. A. TIMES SECT. 1 PAGE 16(cont) DATE 14 June 75

TO ASSIST REFUGEES

Firm Publishes Hymnal In Vietnamese Language

By ERNESTO FLORES

Thanks to a new hymn book now being printed in San Diego, about 500 Vietnamese Protestants in various refugee camps in the United States will soon have an easier time participating in Sunday religious services.

The Vietnamese language hymnal will soon be shipped out to refugee centers.

The book — believed to be the first Vietnamese language hymnal to be produced in the United States for mass distribution — is being published by the S&S Printing Shop, 4985 Voltaire St.

"The song book will be of great help to Vietnamese Protestants who would like to participate more fully in worship services," said Donald Smith, owner of the printing shop and an elder of the Balboa Avenue Alliance Church.

Instrumental in putting the book together was Nguyen Van Mai, 41, who began working on it with his sister in Vietnam. Mai, a draftsman-illustrator, has just left Camp Pendleton with his family. They are now staying with Cmdr. Bob Orcutt, USN, ret., and his family at 6215 Radcliffe Drive in University City.

The Mais are among several Vietnamese refugee families who are being sponsored by churches belonging to The Christian and Missionary Alliance which established the first Protestant mission in Vietnam in 1911. The church's headquarters is in Nyack, N.Y.

"Each of the churches belonging to the denomination have been asked to sponsor a refugee family and our church is sponsoring the Mais," said Smith.

As sponsor, church members contribute money for food, shelter and other necessities for the refugee family and help Mai look for a job.

Orcutt said he is contacting various companies to find a job for Mai. "I don't think it will be difficult to get him a job. He is a very skilled draftsman-illustrator," he said.

Among items Mai was able to bring with him when he and his family fled Saigon were the Vietnamese hymnal and his commendation papers. Mai had been cited for his work with the U.S. Military Assistance Command in Vietnam and with the Federal Electric Corp.

One letter described him as having "shown exceptional ability in all facets of the graphic arts field, including engineering drafting, development of training and visual aids and preparing diagrams and illustrations for publications."

According to Mai, who is a new convert into the Alliance church, he and his sister began work on a larger version of the book in Vietnam and were about to publish it before the Communist takeover.

The book would have been used by 150,000 Vietnamese belonging to the Evangelical Church of Vietnam under the The Christian and Missionary Alliance.

The version being printed by the S & S Printing Shop is called "Thanh-Ca" which simply means Hymn Book and consists of 72 pages of songs and responsorial readings.

"Most of the songs are Vietnamese translations of common Protestant songs, but a few are original Vietnamese songs," said Smith.

Smith said he is initially printing 2,000 copies but he anticipates more orders than that. "First distributions will be among refugees belonging to our churches, but we expect other Protestant denominations to order the hymnals for use by their Vietnamese church members," he added.



— Staff Photo by Bob Redding

Nguyen Van Mai, left, and Donald Smith look over a page of the Vietnamese hymn book they are publishing

for Vietnamese Protestant refugees. The book is believed to be first Vietnamese hymnal to be produced in U.S.

SAN DIEGO UNION SECTION *B* PAGE *6 (cont)* DATE *14 June 75*

Ky Says 'Refugees Fear 'Slavery''

WEIMAR (AP) — South Vietnamese refugees do not want to be slaves in the American labor market, former South Vietnamese Premier Nguyen Cao Ky said yesterday.

Ky, who called himself a spokesman for his people in the United States, said the refugees do not want to take jobs away from Americans but they do not want to be exploited either.

"We want to have a decent life. We don't want to be slaves. I think your people don't want to see it happen. We don't want to live for the next 15 or 20 years on welfare," Ky told reporters.

At a news conference at a refugee resettlement camp in the Sierra foothills, Ky answered reporters' questions for about 20 minutes before speaking to about 50 refugees.

"It is easier to exploit Vietnamese labor because we are desperate. There are those people who try to exploit us. I will do my best to see that does not happen," he said.

Ky said he plans to look at some California land because he would like to try farming where "the soil is rich and the people are nice."

At the Weimar Medical Center — a former tuberculosis treatment facility that was vacant before the refugees arrived — Ky met with officials from the Food for

the Hungry group sponsoring the Weimar refugees. The center, about 50 miles east of Sacramento, is a good way to attack the problem of finding Vietnamese jobs, Ky said. He added he opposes the individual sponsor approach to resettlement.

Ky and his family have rented a home in Fairfax, Va.



— AP Wirephoto

Former Premier Nguyen Cao Ky of South Vietnam and his wife, Hoa, stand outside building at the Weimar Medical Center near Auburn, Calif.

Refugee Sharecropping Plan Abandoned

OCOOE, Fla. (UPI) — this country any good, in 95-degree heat and ar- war.
 Hoping to make them share- they've got to have that pio- ranged with the Red Cross to
 croppers, a Seminole County neer spirit," Mrs. Mary move them to an Orlando
 woman put two families of Kenny told reporters when motel until they can find new
 Vietnamese refugees — 11 arrangements were made to sponsors.
 men, women and children — move the refugees to better quarters.
 in a two-bedroom house Asked about the lack of
 trailer isolated in an orange sanitary facilities, she said:
 grove without electricity, "Well, I gave them a snak-
 water or toilets, handed bite kit and told them to
 them a rifle to shoot in- wear boots. . . ."
 truders, and lectured them Reporters for the Orlando
 on the American way of life. Sentinel Star found the refu-
 "If these are the kind of gees sweltering in the trailer
 people who are going to do

gave Duc a .22-caliber rifle and a box of shells and in-
 structed him to "shoot at anybody that you think might be trying to harm you."

Mrs. Kenny, who leases the 20-acre orange grove, said she had hoped the refugees — all city dwellers from Saigon — would share-crop hay and oranges and pay her \$166 a month in rent.

Only 30% Of Refugees Placed With Sponsors

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Fewer than 30 per cent of the 131,000 refugees from South Vietnam are now living with their American sponsors, and about the same number are still at U.S. bases in the Pacific waiting transfer to the United States.

State Department officials in charge of the resettlement program say that at the rate they are leaving, the refugee camps may be cleared by October.

"As of Saturday there were 35,305 refugees out of the system," one official said. "That means they are out of the camps and living with their American sponsors," except for 3,746 who chose to go to 22 different countries.

Refugees are leaving the camps at a rate of about 800 a day. Anything over 800 would empty the camps completely by October, the official said.

The department said as of Saturday there were 58,992 refugees being processed at four centers in the

continental United States and 36,532 waiting at staging centers in Guam, Wake Island, the Philippines and Thailand.

The refugees included 22,680 at Fort Chaffee, Ark.; 17,280 at Camp Pendleton, Calif.; 4,203 at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.; and 14,829 at Indian Town Gap reservation, Pa.

The officials said there were 26,467 at Guam, 7,043 at Wake Island, 2,752 at the U.S. naval station at Subic Bay in the Philippines "and a handful at U Tapao, Thailand, and Clark Air Force base in the Philippines.

State Department officials were irritated by charges last week by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., that the resettlement program had turned into a "shambles" because of "a lack of leadership."

"Everyone has been sheltered and fed, and there have been no major health problems. Nobody has given any disease to anybody else," the official said. "That is no small miracle in itself."

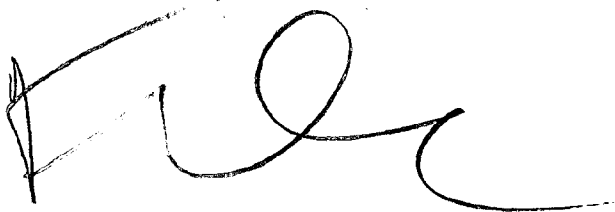
CMC.

CAMP PENDLETON, CA.

REFUGEE CLIPS

18 June 1975

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

A century of memories

By JIM MOLNAR
Staff Writer

CAMP PENDLETON — Tran Thi Nam is most always cold nowadays.

At home on the island of Phu Quoc in Vietnam, Tran Thi Nam didn't have to wear the black and gray wool wraps which bundle around her now.

A century before, at home in a tiny village in the North, Tran Thi Nam worked in the fields and had babies and was never cold.

Today, at home in a quonset buried among hundreds of huts and tents and thousands of people on the west coast of the United States, Tran Thi Nam is most always cold.

Tran Thi Nam is 109 years old. Camp Pendleton may be her final home.

"I'm too old," she half-whispers. "I'm going to stay here. Just give me a house, and I'll stay here."

"And whenever I die, help bury me."

History has been whittled into this ancient grandmother's face, wrinkled with tradition as if it had been carved by some folk artist from a dried apple. Her's are dowager's hands, folded gracefully, long-fingered, on her lap, nails shaped and painted deep carmine.

A rosary hangs about her neck, silver filigreed crucifix dangling assuredly before her.

She speaks through the English of her adopted grandson Nguyen Huu Tam.

"I was able to work hard when I was young. Now I must sit. I am too close to the grave now. When I was young there were no cars and airplanes; now I have seen too many."

"Things change."

Tran Thi Nam was born and lived most of her life in North Vietnam. "When the time of trouble came, we fled" to Phu Quoc island. She lived there with her family, at least most of her family, "until the time of

trouble came" and with it another flight — this time halfway around the world.

Nguyen Huu Tam told the story, "When it was time to leave, our family got into our little boat. It was only 20 feet long and there were about 20 of us. We sailed about three hours in the sea before we reached the American ship."

"Nam" was cold in our little boat. There was no room and she was half in the boat and half in the water. The waves almost took her several times.

"On the American ship she was able to get warm and slept for several days."

There are 15 family members living now in Pendleton's Camp Telega and Nam is cared for by her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Her oldest son who is 87 is still in North Vietnam. She believes he is alive.

All in all, Tran Thi Nam's family numbers in the hundreds including the four grandchildren and their families with her now.

Uppermost in their minds is finding a sponsor, work and a way to begin the new life they had envisioned when they severed themselves completely from the only world they had ever known.

Most important to Nguyen Huu Tam is making sure the younger children get to school.

The adults are desperate to leave Camp Telega to find work and support the family. Among the talents and experiences of Nguyen Huu Tam, Ngo Loc and Huang Phi Dung are masonry, construction, communications

and radio operation.

"We are still looking for a sponsor—a company, a church — so that we can stay together," says Nguyen Huu Tam. "We would at least like to stay in the same vicinity with one another if we could not all live in the same house. We must take care of one another."

As with many of the refugees, Tran Thi Nam's family is beginning to fear that Americans aren't as willing to accept them as neighbors and countrymen as they have

(Cont. on Page 14, Col. 3)

Memories

(Cont. from Page 1)

always been lead to believe.

Tran Thi Nam, herself, is calm. Having been utterly uprooted at 109, being absolutely displaced halfway around the world after more than a century of life in Vietnam, she has already accomplished a feat no doubt unequalled in human history.

What is to happen now? Nam stared silently for a moment before answering, "It is up to God."

"Things change."



Staff photo by Don Bertlett

FINAL HOME . . . Tran Thi Nam is 109. Living in a hut with 14 family members at Camp Pendleton, she says she is too old to wonder what the future may hold for her, but her great-grandchild cannot

help but wonder. Calm, resignation and faith have accompanied this matriarch halfway around the world. But for the children, flight has meant confusion and fear.

VISTA PRESS SECT 1, PAGE 1 (cont) DATE 15 June 75

Alpert Entertains at Pendelton

Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass, who can brighten any situation, did exactly that at the Camp Pendleton Vietnamese Refugee Center by staging a concert that I am sure could have been heard halfway to Tijuana. Herb, who is really making a comeback, after some time off to "pull himself together," brought along his entire road show and picked up the tab for the installation of the sound equipment at the tent city where some 15,000 Vietnamese are waiting for permission to start a new life in the United States.

Alpert was among the first entertainers to volunteer a concert for the refugees. It could be that he was influenced by the fact that his wife (yes, they are married!) Lani Hall, will shortly give birth to their first child, and thousands of Vietnamese children are living in the camp.



Herb Alpert

HERALD*EXAMINER

SECTION

B

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CAN YOU HELP?**Dear Trouble Shooter**

I am a Vietnamese refugee at San Onofre, Camp Pendleton. I would like to display my trouble in finding a sponsor. I came here to California on May 8. I do not have a sponsor yet, but have been told to write you for help. I hope that among your readers I may find one.

I am 29 years old, single, strong and healthy, speaking, writing and understanding English fluently. I was an interpreter for U.S. Forces in Vietnam (1967-1970) and was a Navy petty officer for supply. I used to work as a storekeeper and have gained a U.S. Certificate of Supply. I am a soil technician trained in a soil and material testing laboratory.

I would very much appreciate it if you can help me find a job and a sponsor.

N.T.H.

Camp Pendleton

Best the Ol' Trouble Shooter can do, podnah, is print your letter and hope that one of his readers has a job calling for your qualifications. If so, let's suggest immediate contact with Nguyen Thien Huan, San Onofre Bldg. 224, Camp Pendleton 92005. The phone number is (714) 725-7326.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY — Diep Ngoc Linh, sitting on her mother's lap, celebrated her first birthday in Vista this week. Linh, her parents, a sister and a brother, are Vietnamese sponsored by the Faith Lutheran Church of Vista. They are currently living in a home provided by Louise Hergert.

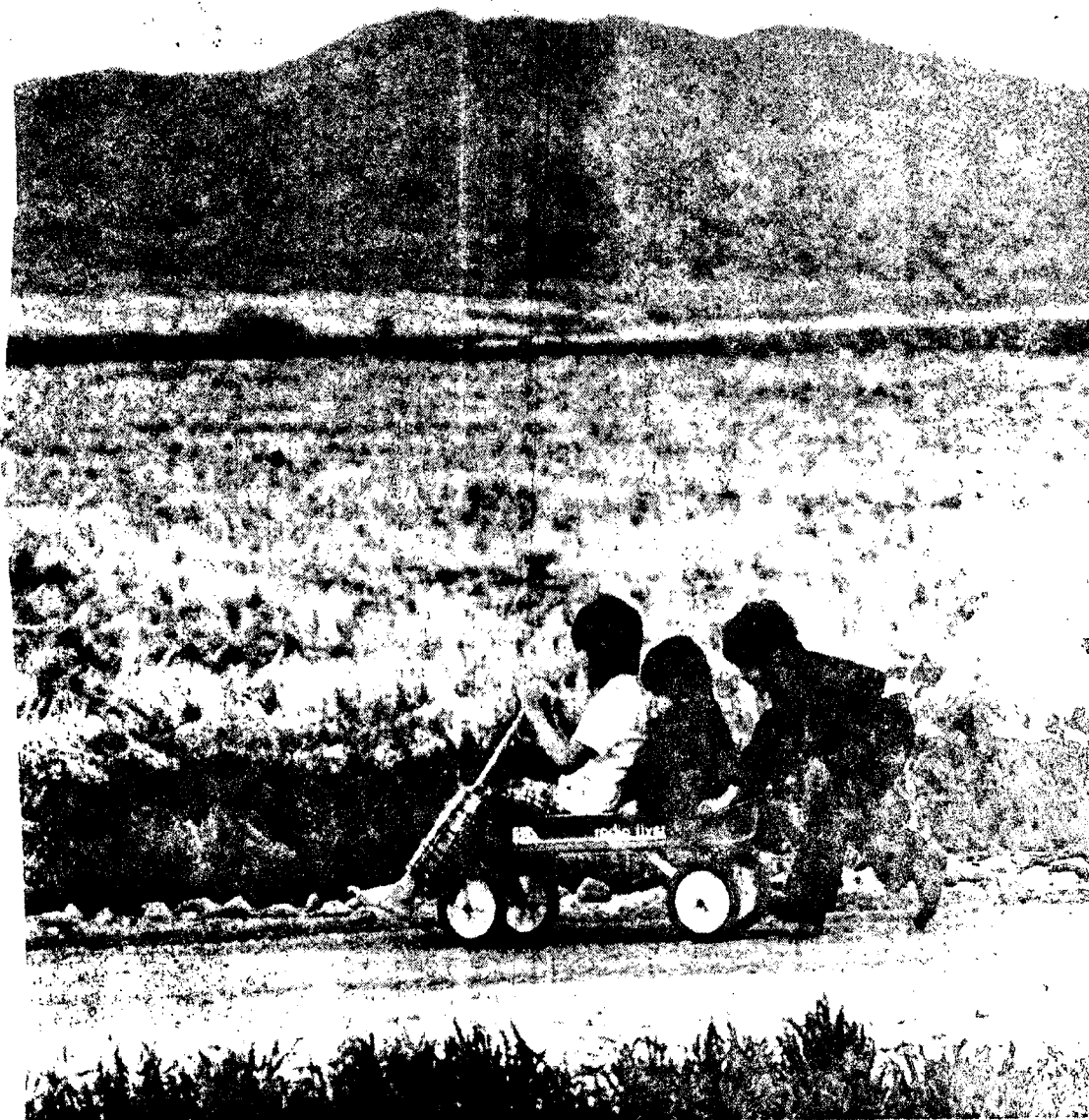
OCEANSIDE BLADE TRIBUNE, SECT. 1

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REFUGEE BLANKETS — Camp Pendleton marines unload additional supplies of blankets brought to the base Monday to ward off the unseasonably cold and damp weather which the area has been experiencing in recent weeks. The biggest complaint of the Vietnam war refugees at the base has been the cold weather — in the fifties at night and little or no sun in the day.



WIDE OPEN SPACES — Berthed, Colo., is home now for Panny, Jeremy Cu and P.T. Luu, 9, 5 and

7, orphaned Vietnamese brothers adopted by David and Bobbie Johnson.—AP Photo

Refugee Resettlement Longer Than Expected

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Resettlement of Vietnamese refugees is taking longer than expected, the General Accounting Office says.

As a result, there is a chance "existing appropriations may not provide sufficient funding" and "bottlenecks" in getting refugees to sponsors could extend the program past its intended June 30, 1976, cutoff, a GOA report said.

The government's interagency refugee task force said that as of Monday 28 per cent of the 131,000 refugees were out of the four U.S. camps provided for them and living with American families. A similar number, about 35,000, were at staging areas at U.S. bases in the Pacific, and about 59,000 were at U.S. refugee camps.

Officials said they hoped to have the U.S. camps cleared by October.

The backlog is caused mostly by a requirement that all refugees get security clearance by five government agencies and the lack of American sponsors, which has

created a "bottleneck in the processing system," the GAO report said.

As of the end of May, 72 per cent of the total arrivals at the four continental camps did not have sponsors, according to the report. "Much of the delay was created by initial problems in developing sponsorship programs, including verifying the genuineness of sponsorship offers," it said.

Task force spokesman Elinor Green characterized the GAO report as fair, but said its figures on a variety of matters may be out of date. She said there is "an absolute requirement" for verifying sponsorship offers because, "If you speed up that verification what you wind up doing is later spending more for welfare payments."

Other problems identified by the GAO report:

—Bad weather poses a potential problem in Guam, "where refugees are living in tents ... (and) the threat of a typhoon increases steadily through the summer."