

# Emotional Visit To Viet Refugees

## Camp Pendleton

California Attorney General Evelle Younger, at times wiping tears from his eyes, welcomed Vietnamese refugees to America yesterday and said he hopes they will find "peace and contentment."

Speaking through an interpreter, Younger apologized for the statements of "some people who mistakenly see you as a threat" because of high unemployment in California and elsewhere in the nation.

"I hope you will be tolerant of some of the statements of some U.S. officials — statements that may appear hostile and mistrusting," he said. "But the fact is, the vast majority of citizens welcome you with open arms and are proud to have you here."

Younger and his wife, Mildred, toured a mess hall following his brief welcoming speech and talked with several refugees.

At one point, he leaned down to chat with an elderly woman who said she was blind and asked her if she was afraid.

The interpreter, Hoang Van Loc, replied, "She was afraid she would not be able

to come here to safety.

Wiping tears from his eyes, Younger said, "Well, she's safe now."

Asked later why he had tears, Younger replied, "I'm emotional because these people have not been treated as well as I think they should be. They're scared, nervous and don't know what the future holds. The least we can do is ease the trauma for them."

*United Press*