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ART CARGO PRICED ON REFUGEE SHIP

Part of '150-Million' Works
Are Appraised at \$75,000

AGANA, Guam, May 27 (AP)—A cargo of art objects that South Vietnam's new Government claims as stolen Vietnamese art treasures worth \$150-million has been initially appraised at only \$70,000 to \$80,000 officials said today. But more treasures still may be aboard the vessel, they added.

And a spokesman for Guam's Gov. Ricardo Bordallo said that the Governor had not yet ruled out the possibility that the items may be Vietnamese national treasures.

He said that some of the art objects uncrated over the weekend had been packed in newspapers dated 1967 and 1968—about the time the National Museum at Hue was believed to have been robbed of several art objects.

The North Vietnamese news agency said Monday that the cargo of the ship that carried refugees to Guam on May 15, had been looted from the National Archives in Saigon and the Imperial Palace at Hue, and demanded that the United States return it.

Howe, the estimated value of the art works—mainly porcelain vases and pottery—was far below the figure expected by officials when they first came upon the secret cargo last week. They said then that it might be worth millions of dollars.

Ed Gould, press secretary to the Governor, said that 54 crates had been opened but that more boxes had been discovered in the hold of the Tan Nam Viet, buried under tons of scrap metal. He saw that these boxes would also be opened if "evidence" warranted that action was found.

Ownership of the items remains a mystery. "There are no papers with them, no bills of lading, no receipts," Mr. Gould said.

The vessel's owner, Huynh Phu Qui, who remains aboard the ship with a small crew, told the authorities that the crates contained private art collections and personal effects of a wealthy Vietnamese pharmacist.

The crates were addressed to Dao Diep Khanh in Montreal, Canada. A spokesman for Mrs. Khanh, whose father is a pharmacist, today called the affair an "enormously distorted and a ridiculous scandal." He said that the Daos "were wealthy people and had a luxurious home," adding the art objects and goods were those "normally found in any well-to-do home."

The appraisal of the items' value came from Gordon Mailoux, a Guam jeweler and art dealer who examined the articles as curator for the local Government. His estimates matched those given by the ship's owner when asked about the value.

But the Guam government also has another unexpected cargo on its hands. "We know," said Mr. Gould, "that one ship anchored out there is loaded with canned goods. We're now trying to get the canned goods off the ships and get them out to the refugee camps where they are needed."