

Band and Applause Greet Refugees in Pennsylvania

By SETH S. KING

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FORT INDIANTOWN GAP, Pa., May 28—As the Northern Lebanon High School band blared a welcoming march and Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp ran up the plane ramp to greet them, the first of about 15,000 South Vietnamese refugees arrived today for what is supposed to be temporary settlement on this sprawling National Guard training base.

A friendly throng of nearly 1,000 elementary school children, politicians and curious residents of the Harrisburg area jammed the police barriers at Harrisburg Airport, applauding as 340 weary Vietnamese stepped hesitantly from the American Airlines jumbo jet that had brought them directly from Guam.

As the refugees were guided toward eight air-conditioned buses, school girls handed roses to some of them and passed out Frisbees and taffy candy to the shy Vietnamese children tagging along beside their parents.

When he could get through the official greeters to a microphone, Governor Shapp welcomed the first arrivals, promising to do whatever was possible to help them adjust to a strange new life.

500 Cambodians Expected

"It won't be easy," he said. "But it was not easy for many millions of other immigrants and refugees before you who came to this country, including my own ancestors and those of most other Americans."

An hour and a half later, the refugees were seated in a post movie theater from whose porch they could look over the cool green foothills of the Appalachians.

There they waited to be issued identification cards and to be assigned living quarters in the tattered old World War II barracks that had been crudely partitioned into family sections.

An Army contingent, sent here after preparing Fort Chaffee, Ark., for an earlier refugee group, has had a week to get the aging plumbing and cooking facilities here ready for them and for the 14,500 others who will be arriving each day

in groups of 500 to 1,000 until the lift from Guam is completed. About 500 Cambodian refugees are expected to be among the later arrivals.

A large task force of Federal officials, headed by Richard Friedman of Chicago, Midwest regional director of the Health, Education and Welfare Department, will coordinate their processing.

Fears of Residents

This will include full physical examinations and the search for American sponsors willing to assume what Mr. Friedman says is a purely moral obligation to aid the refugees in finding jobs, lodging and clothing.

Mr. Friedman, who unsuccessfully ran against Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley four years ago, has spent part of his time here trying to reassure the people of this area who feared the refugees would either compete for the few jobs available or burden their overcrowded school and welfare systems.

The first group of refugees to arrive this morning was followed later this afternoon by 179 others.

Today's arrivals were mostly family groups, with ages ranging from a few weeks to 80 years.

A number of them spoke English well enough to talk with reporters. Most were from Saigon and many had been employed by the American Government or American companies. Several others were Vietnamese service men.

Their apparent prospects for

sponsors and jobs varied as widely as their ages and resources.

Ngoc Nguyen Nam, a diminutive man neatly dressed in a grey suit, had worked in Saigon for the United States Information Service and Esso. He said he had friends in Washington whom he hoped to contact as soon as possible about employment.

Van Nguyen Duc, a helicopter pilot, was clutching an old letter from a Lieutenant V. L. Swope of Enterprise, Ala., whom he had trained with at a Texas flight school. He said he hoped Lieutenant Swope would sponsor him.

But Thu Nguyen Thi, a slender young woman sagging from fatigue, said she had fled in a helicopter from the American Embassy compound in Saigon, where she worked as an administrative specialist, leaving her husband behind after he ordered her to go.

Holding her fretting 11-month-old son as a Red Cross nurse took the baby's temperature, she sighed and said: "I can't go back, it's too danger-

ous. I have no word of my husband. I can only live here until I learn something or he comes."

The 18,000-acre Indiantown Gap military reservation is sited in sparsely populated Pennsylvania Dutch farm country 25 miles east of Harrisburg. The closest towns are six miles away, and once the refugees are settled in, few residents of this area will have any contact with them.

The only ones who will even see them will be those driving along the state highway that runs within 100 yards of one barracks area.

Legislators and state senators from area districts reported today that mail opposing the arrival of the refugees had diminished quickly in recent days.

Congressman Herman T. Schneebeli, a Republican from Williamsport, said it was "just not an overwhelming letter-producing event any more." He said most of the mail he was now receiving was from people asking what they could do to help the refugees.

— "I think people who were

uneasy did not understand that the Vietnamese will not be all settled around here," said Kay Kaspár, a Camp Hill housewife who had come from the nearby airport to see the arrival. "We have to put ourselves in their places and think how we'd feel about being brought to a strange place so far away from home and having to start all over again."

Last night Mr. Friedman and Governor Shapp met here with local officials who appeared to be completely unaware of the procedures the Government intended to follow in resettling the refugees.

Many asked if they were going to be expected to find jobs for the Vietnamese or how soon the refugees would be enrolling in local schools, or whether there were many alcoholics and drug addicts among the refugees.

"We've just gone through a drug problem of our own and we don't want another one," said Mayor Gordon Shutter of Cornwall Borough.