

A 'Bottleneck' in Viet Refugee

Washington

A General Accounting Office report on the Vietnamese refugee settlement program warned yesterday that problems with finding sponsors have created a "bottleneck" that could mean the extension of the program beyond June 30, 1976, its planned termination date.

The GAD report does con-

clude, however, that "under pressure of time and numbers of refugees, the task force (the President's Inter-agency Task Force, set up to coordinate the government's resettlement effort) has performed commendably."

The principal one is sponsorship, which the report says "has proven to be a

bottleneck in the processing system."

The actual resettlement of the refugees — the location of sponsors and their "matching" with Vietnamese individuals or families, and the logistics of moving the refugees to their new homes — is being handled, under contract, by a number of voluntary agencies, many of them church-affiliated.

Program

Within the task force, there is some criticism of the voluntary agencies for being too slow and inflexible in setting up the machinery for screening would-be sponsors.

One example cited was the reported unwillingness of the agencies to work with

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the list of thousands of persons who phoned the task force on a toll-free line to offer some form of sponsorship, on the ground that most of the offers came from people who simply wanted cheap labor.

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