

Vietnamese Evacuation In Cambodia to Resume

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, June 8 — Social Welfare Minister Tran Nguon Phieu said today that the Government, after two weeks of controversy, had reversed its decision to halt the evacuation of ethnic Vietnamese from Cambodia.

Dr. Phieu, who has been Saigon's chief negotiator in talks with Pnompenh on the problems of the Vietnamese minority of about half a million, said Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky's visit to Cambodia last week had been a major factor in persuading the Government to resume the program, even if at a slower rate.

For two weeks, the minister, a physician, said in an interview, he has been fighting to evacuate all Vietnamese who believe that they can no longer live in peace in Cambodia. Political pressures from quarters Dr. Phieu did not identify brought the program to a halt two weeks ago and brought an atmosphere of doom to the detention camps for Vietnamese in Cambodia.

Sees Political Motive

The minister said the opposition to the program was political, presumably because political figures did not want to add to the problems of South Vietnam by adding hundreds of outsiders to the already large refugee population.

The minister took Vice President Ky to visit one of the worst camps in Pnompenh Saturday, shortly before the Vice President returned here. At the Roman Catholic seminary, where 12,000 Vietnamese are crammed into every available indoor and outdoor space, vice president Ky was greeted by signs urging him to repatriate all Vietnamese.

The minister said the Vice President's energetic support had been a decisive element in resuming the evacuations.

There has been no change, he said, in the decision to persuade as many of the Vietnamese as possible to stay in Cambodia. But, he said, those who have been deprived of

their jobs, homes and belongings and do not want to start anew in a country that has proved as hostile as Cambodia should be given a chance to come here. Much of the South Vietnamese fear arises from mass slayings of Vietnamese in mid-April that were nominally carried out as reprisals against people who aided the Vietcong but that were probably related to ancient ethnic hostilities.

Cambodia Has Her Own

Dr. Phieu said he found the Cambodian Government cooperative, particularly because it was faced with its own refugee problem.

The minister said that 92,000 refugees had been received in South Vietnam thus far. He said he believed his original forecast that 200,000 Vietnamese would want to leave Cambodia and be accommodated here would be fulfilled.

Meanwhile, he said, South Vietnamese authorities working in Pnompenh have taken over most of the internal control of the refugee camps.

The reversal of the Cambodian Government's attitude on the Vietnamese minority—from distrust and persecution to allowing a foreign government to exercise significant control over a large part of the population of Cambodia—is viewed by well placed Vietnamese as a measure of Pnompenh's weakness and dependence on South Vietnam to help defend it against North Vietnam and the Vietcong.

Japan Offers Aid

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GENEVA, June 8—Japan has offered \$2-million in emergency aid in response to a Red Cross appeal on behalf of 165,000 refugees in Cambodia, the International Committee of the Red Cross said today.

Food and medical supplies as well as tents and other equipment are needed for 75,000 Cambodians and 90,000 South Vietnamese who are awaiting repatriation, according to the Red Cross.