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**U.S. Dilemma
On Viet
Refugees**

Washington

The prospect that hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese may seek refuge in the United States has plunged American policy-makers into a dilemma.

If they wait too long to open the doors, officials say, it may be too late for these refugees, many of whom have worked for Americans in Vietnam, to get out following a Communist takeover.

If they move too quickly, officials fear, they could spread panic and a sense of impending defeat at a time when it is American policy that Saigon can hold.

President Ford said in his press conference Thursday that "under existing law action by the attorney general can permit refugees who are fleeing problems in their own country to come to the United States."

He said this authority was used after World War II and following the Soviet invasion of Hungary. It was also used to provide refuge to Cubans escaping from the regime of Fidel Castro.

The President also said he had "directed American officials in Saigon to act immediately to cut red tape and other bureaucratic obstacles" preventing orphans from coming to the United States.

American officials said yesterday that a task force, headed by Assistant Secretary of State Philip C. Habis, is now considering how to waive restrictions to admit large numbers of refugees — with estimates running anywhere from 100,000 to more than a million.

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