

# U.S. PLANES CARRY MANY VIETNAMESE

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Flow of Evacuees to the  
Philippines Rises Rapidly  
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CLARK AIR BASE, The Philippines, April 21 — Hundreds of Vietnamese, some of them present or former military officers, began arriving at Clark Air Base today on the American airlift from Saigon.

Nearly 1,500 evacuees—three times yesterday's number—stepped from the huge C-141 transports that wheeled up to the hangars as frequently as every 15 minutes during the night.

The recreation grounds known as the "Happening on the Green" in the center of the air base, tents sprang up to house the overflow of refugees and evacuees. The total at the sprawling Air Force facility is now more than 3,000, according to unofficial estimates.

## Most Arrivals Are Vietnamese

Thirty-six tents capable of accommodating more than 700 people rose. Temporary trailers as well as abandoned barracks and even the base hotel were pressed into service.

One State Department official working with the processing center here said: "It certainly has changed. It used to be all Americans. Now for every Americans, name see there are 12 Vietnamese."

It is becoming clear that as the number of Americans dwindles and the airlift capacity increases, American authorities are taking advantage of the extra spaces on the planes to bring out Vietnamese who have had close contacts with Americans and fear for their lives in the event of a Communist take-over.

Such an airlift, which President Ford has said could involve as many as 200,000 South Vietnamese civilians and Government and military officials, has not yet been officially approved.

The key problem here is the accelerating pace of traffic. Nearly 20 flights of the big transport planes, some originating from Andersen Air Force base on Guam, suddenly descended on Clark Air Base, the largest American overseas air base. That was three times yesterday's number.