

U.S. Letting In 129,000 Indochina Refugees

Washington

The Immigration and Naturalization Service cleared the way yesterday for admission of up to 129,000 Indochina refugees to the United States.

Attorney General Edward Levi invoked emergency parole procedures to waive normal immigration processes for the 129,000 refugees, including 50,000 South Vietnamese who lives would be considered endangered by a North Vietnamese victory.

A spokesman said American embassy officials in Saigon would determine which South Vietnamese are eligible for admission to the

United States. State Department officials would give no details, however, of the exact number of Indochinese actually to come to this country or where they would be settled.

Officials did term as "just poppycock" a report that California officials have been advised to prepare for an influx of up to a million refugees from Southeast Asia.

Resettling that many, said spokesman Robert Anderson, is "absolutely, clearly out of the question."

The judiciary committees in both houses of Congress approved Levi's action, although that is not necessary.

Levi, who reports to the committees, had requested the approval.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service said among the categories of Southeast Asians who would be admitted to the United States are:

- An estimated 10,000 to 75,000 Vietnamese nationals who are close relatives of Americans and permanent resident aliens now in the United States or Vietnam.

- About 1000 Cambodians formerly employed by the United States in Cambodia who have been moved to Thailand.

- About 3000 relatives of

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U.S. citizens and resident aliens for whom visa petitions already have been filed relatives in the United States.

Levi's request also included about 5000 Cambodian diplomats in third countries facing forcible return or expulsion.

State Department officials said the number of refugees authorized by the State Judiciary Committee at Levi's request represents the ultimate limit of refugees from South Vietnam and Cambodia anticipated by the administration.

President Ford told Republican congressional leaders at a morning White

House meeting the number of Americans remaining in South Vietnam would be down to 1500 by the end of the day.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, of Montana, who called the evacuation figures "encouraging," agreed to set the Senate's \$200 million evacuation-humanitarian aid bill aside for a day at the request of Senator Dick Clark (Dem-Iowa) and several unidentified senators.

In the House, members of the unofficial Democratic Study Group won a one-day delay in action on the House version of a \$327 million humanitarian aid-evacuation bill providing authority for

use of U.S. troops to protect evacuation of American citizens and endangered foreign nationals.

The House Armed Services Committee voted 21 to 17 to table President Ford's request for \$722 million in military aid for South Vietnamese.

Urging the Senate to "wait a few more hours" to see how withdrawal of Americans proceeds, Clark said the last confirmed figures showed "well over 3000" Americans and their dependents remaining in South Vietnam.

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The number would have to be cut "at least in half," he said, to assure ability to get them out in an emergency "in one scoop of helicopters."

In the House, Representative Bob Eckhardt (Dem-Tex.), president of the Democratic Study Group, said a number of members wanted at least another day to study language in the House bill authorizing use of U.S. armed forces to evacuate South Vietnamese, as well as Americans.

Representative John Burton (Dem-Calif.) urged delay to be sure the Ford administration is expediting the withdrawal of Americans from South Vietnam and "not holding hostages"

to obtain congressional approval of more military aid to South Vietnam.

"By tomorrow there conceivably could be a negotiated settlement and all of our people could get out," Burton said.

Senator Jacob Javits (Rep-N.Y.) said after a meeting of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with Assistant Secretary of State Philip Habib that there is real hope for negotiations "for a peaceful end to the war.

Negotiations, he said, were under way between "political groups" in Vietnam for a government capable of negotiating.

Associated Press
