

# NYTimes Guam Becomes Center for Airlift From Saigon

AGANA, Guam, April 23 (Reuters)—The focus of United States airlift of Americans and Vietnamese from Saigon switched today to this American-administered territory, touching off expressions of concern in the territorial legislature.

Until today, the evacuation center had been at Clark Air Base, the large American installation in the Philippines, 5,500 miles west of here. American military spokesmen there said the switch was made because the base was overcrowded and Guam could accommodate a large number of refugees for a long period. But there were also reports that behind the move there was also a desire to avoid friction with the Philippines, which is reassessing relations with the United States.

Three jets landed here today, bringing in more than 600 refugees from the Philippines and Saigon. By tomorrow, 5,000 people a day are expected to pass through here, with the total expected to reach 50,000.

Gov. Ricardo Bordallo, who received an urgent predawn telephone call from the United States State Department warning of the influx, said the island could accept as many as 25,000 refugees on a permanent basis.

Guam, the southernmost of the Marianas Islands, is about 30 miles long and four to 10 miles wide. It has a population of more than 85,000, roughly half of them Chamorros, a people native to the islands. Many of the rest are American military personnel or government officials.

### Legislator Seek Assurances

The news of the airlift shift prompted demands by some senators in the legislature here that the State Department be required to show proof that the refugees' food and lodging would be paid for. Others said they were afraid that some Vietcong might have joined the refugees intending to kill South Vietnamese officials flown out of Saigon.

The refugees who arrived

today were being housed at Andersen Air Force base, which served as one of the bases for the 1972 bombing of Hanoi. They were being given shelter in corrugated metal barracks used by American servicemen during the last year of American involvement in the Vietnam war.

Immigration officials here said procedures had been greatly relaxed to allow refugees to go to the United States. But they said, some refugees without connections in the United States or without documents might have to remain in Guam for up to 90 days.

### 6,000 at Clark Base

CLARK AIR BASE, the Philippines, April 23 (AP)—About 10,000 Americans and their Vietnamese dependents had been flown here from Saigon before the airlift was redirected to Guam.

An Air Force spokesman said that 6,000 people were still housed at the base here today

but that they would be transferred to the Guamanian base.

The basis here is the largest American military installation outside the United States, with a population of 47,000. There are 29,500 military and dependents and 17,500 Philippine workers.

There were reports that the Philippine Government had objected to use of the base for the airlift, but these were denied in Washington by Robert Anderson, the State Department spokesman. [American sources quoted by United Press International said the Philippines had pressed the United States to send the refugees elsewhere because it feared that large numbers of Vietnamese would settle in the Manila area.]

An Air Force spokesman said that the last five Vietnamese infants brought here from Saigon in an operation that began April 4 left for the United States today after being treated for malnutrition. He said that 892 children had passed through Clark.