

# U.S. Coping With Refugee Resettlement Problems

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WASHINGTON, April 23—As thousands of Vietnamese fled Saigon aboard American military aircraft, State Department officials here were still grappling today with plans for their resettlement.

With Clark Air Base in the Philippine's reported to be already overflowing with those escaping from Vietnam, the United States shifted its primary refugee reception center to Andersen Air Base on the American-administered island of Guam.

The Indochina task force under Assistant Secretary Philip C. Habib was struggling to keep up with the rapidly changing situation.

"Nothing is worked out," a State Department spokesman said when asked about plans for resettling the 130,000 or so refugees expected to be taken out of Saigon. "We're talking to voluntary agencies about it. We're worried about getting them to Guam and we'll work it out later. That's pretty much the way it is."

The spokesman said that the Department of Defense was paying the cost of flying the refugees out of Vietnam, but that no plans had been made for their further movement.

"That is in the area that

hasn't been nailed down yet," he said.

He also said that no arrangements had been made yet for jobs or housing for the refugees.

And he explained that even the number 130,000, which the Justice Department said yesterday it would seek to admit to the United States on a waiver of immigration restrictions, was an arbitrary figure based on an estimate of those who would be endangered by a Communist take-over of South Vietnam.

"Nobody seems to have a figure," the State Department spokesman said.

## Guam Facilities Cited

He also denied reports that the refugee operation had been shifted from Clark Air Base to Guam because of complaints from the Philippine Government.

"We have extended our gratitude to the Philippines," he said, declaring that the chance had been made because Andersen Air Base on Guam had more facilities.

However, he said that he did not know whether the Guam base could accommodate any more than the 50,000 refugees now expected to be flown there.

The spokesman said that Ambassador Graham A. Martin in Saigon had the responsibility

for deciding which South Vietnamese were in the "high risk" category that qualified for immigration "parole" by the Justice Department.

He said that the Agency for International Development was sending a man to Guam to work with a team of immigration officers and clerks being sent there to screen the refugees.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service announced that its processing would include examinations by medical officers, security checks, determination of positive identification and interviews to determine if the alien would be eligible to enter the United States under parole provisions and would qualify for admission under immigration law.

After clearance by immigration authorities on Guam, the service said, Vietnamese and Cambodians who have been flown there will be free to come to the United States without additional processing.

In the case of the Cambodians, a State Department request for parole will be required for each individual, according to Leonard F. Chapman Jr., Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He added that the service also would require a statement in each case that the United

Nations had been unable to relocate the applicant in another country.

As for the South Vietnamese, Verne Jervis, public information officer for the Immigration and Naturalization Service, said that "our role is to process and screen out any who are ineligible, such as criminals, prostitutes or drug addicts."

He said that State Department would determine who fell in the "high risk" category of people who would be in danger if Saigon was taken over by the Communists.

"That's going to be the State Department's responsibility, who does and does not qualify," he said. "There's going to be an awful lot of hard decisions that will have to be made on the spot."

Once the South Vietnamese refugees are cleared, he said they will be given an immigration parole for "an indefinite time."

Later Mr. Jervis said, they would be eligible to apply for citizenship as any other immigrant. However, he noted that in the cases of Hungarian and Cuban refugees who fled to the United States the Congress has passed bills to make it easier for them to become American citizens.