

State's Allotment Of Viet Refugees

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'High-Risk' Vietnamese Rescued

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A number of South Vietnamese active in the controversial "Phoenix Program" are among the "high risk" refugees being evacuated by the United States, an official said yesterday.

L. Dean Brown, a retired ambassador overseeing the massive airlift that so far has brought out about 12,000 South Vietnamese, said "we have some sort of attachment" to those who worked in the program.

Directed by U.S. intelligence agencies, the Phoenix program was designed in the late 1960s to ferret out Viet Cong from areas under Saigon's control. The results in many instances were bloody executions.

Briefing newsmen on the over-all evacuation operation, Brown said the great majority of Vietnamese flown out so far are relatives of Americans.

As for the "high risk" group, for which up to 50,000 spaces have been reserved, Brown said selection is being left to the U.S. Embassy in Saigon with Amba-

sador Graham Martin having ultimate responsibility.

Predominant in the high-risk category, he said, are South Vietnamese working for the U.S. government, intellectuals and political leaders.

The Phoenix program involved a large number of local police, and other Vietnamese officials in an effort to counter Viet Cong agents operating in Saigon-controlled areas.

Meanwhile, U.S. officials who insisted on remaining anonymous, said that the number of Americans left in South Vietnam would be reduced to 1100 by today.

Brown said he had no idea how many days are left for the evacuation of perhaps as many as 130,000 South Viet-

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namese and Cambodian refugees who have been authorized to enter the United States.

Brown said "special task forces" of federal and private agencies are meeting daily to decide what to do with the refugees once they reach the United States. No final decisions have been reached, he said.

"Contrary to reports, no facilities have yet been set up around the United States," Brown said. "One thing that we have to look at in this phase of the planning is that there will be no one part of the country that will be inundated with refugees.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare and voluntary relief organizations such as church groups and the American Red Cross are working on the problem he said.

A.P. & U.P.