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A Refugee Tent City In Guam

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Tent City, a modest trailer park surrounded by barbed wire and military guards, swelled to overflowing with 4300 Vietnamese as the massive airlift of refugees from endangered Saigon continued yesterday.

Nearly 50 military and civilian charter flights had flown 8706 refugees to this small mid-Pacific island by midnight last night.

As Tent City at Andersen Air Base filled, new arrivals were bused to a converted military hospital which has room for 10,000. Military officials scrambled to find bed and board for everyone at this western-most U.S. territory.

Refugees were not allowed off the U.S. base unless they had an American passport. The total number of refugees is expected to hit 50,000 before "Operation New Life" ends.

The refugee areas were secured to keep people out — not to confine the refugees, a military spokesman said. "These people have a right to some privacy, too," he said.

Despite the spartan living conditions, refugees appeared glad to be out of their war-torn homeland.

"A lot of people got on board the plane with a very dim future," said one refugee. "The people here,

S.F. Briefing on Refugees

A briefing for people who want to know how they can get their relatives out of Vietnam and into the United States will be held tomorrow at the International Institute, 2209 Van Ness avenue.

The session, which will be held from 9 a.m. to noon, will deal with the immigration petitions and papers required for Vietnamese relatives. The institute is a private agency financed by the United Crusade.

you're all so kind. You make us feel very easy. But we also come back to thinking about the future. Right now, we don't know what will happen to us."

Airmen worked 12-hour shifts to handle heavy traffic at the air base, once the take-off point for B-52 raids on North Vietnam.

Meanwhile, Guam's civilians were asked to volunteer as babysitters and cooks, to contribute toys and recreational equipment, and help find 10,000 mattresses and cots.

Although originally planning to serve two meals a day, military cooks went to work at 7:30 a.m. and kept serving into the night.

One refugee, the Vietnamese wife of a retired U.S. military officer, gave birth to a 9-pound, 3-ounce boy last night.

Associated Press