

109 ABOARD PLANE STIR U.S. PROBLEM

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Refugees Arrived Without
Document or Destination
on Overcrowded Flight

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Last Monday night 294 Vietnamese refugees landed at Oakland Airport stuffed into an overloaded DC-8. The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service still has not decided what to do with 109 of them.

"They arrived here naked, without documents," said Richard Williams, district director for the service. "Nobody knows how they got here."

The 294 passengers arrived aboard a World Airways plane fitted with 252 seats, an airline spokesman said. Some adults held small children and some children were two to one seat.

The flight's purpose originally was to bring in 140 staff members and crippled children from a Roman Catholic orphanage in Vietnam. In addition to those from the orphanage there were 154 other Vietnamese—100 children and 54 adults. Most of them had been designated to board the plane by Ed Daley, the owner-president of World Airways.

"This was a Daley flight," said an airline employe. Three different authorities picked people to board the plane, this spokesman said—Mr. Daley, the American Embassy in Saigon, and the Rev. Robert Crawford, a priest who ran the orphanage.

No Papers Required

Accounts relayed from the refugees make clear that Mr. Daley simply granted permission to selected Vietnamese to board his plane, without regard to travel documents, and then had them flown to Japan and placed on the plane that brought them to Oakland.

While the plane was in flight the Rev. Marvin Rickard, pastor of the Los Gatos Christian Church near San Jose, Calif., was called to ask if his offer to help, made days earlier, included housing some refugees. He said it did.

The 154 Vietnamese without destination in the United States were taken to the church Monday night. The 3,000-member congregation of what Mr. Rickard called "a Bible-oriented nondenominational church" was organized in eight-hour shifts with the several policemen who are church members assigned to provide security patrols.

The church is in a former electronics manufacturing plant on spacious grounds that look somewhat like a small college campus. The refugees have been established there and are unavailable for interviews with outsiders.

Immigration officials interviewed them yesterday but have not released full details of what they found. Gordon Davidson, deputy director of the Immigration and Naturalization Services' office here, said that 25 more had been found to belong with the Catholic relief group and had been sent on to Mt. Angel, Ore.

Six other adults, who had 14 dependents among them, were employes of a national corporation that Mr. Davidson would not identify. Other sources said it was American Express. These six are being taken by their company to Hawaii and Taiwan to new jobs.

Very little is known of the remaining 109, except that about two-thirds are children. A spokesman for World Airways said that the passenger manifest list had Vietnamese names on it and no other identification of passengers.

Mr. Rickard said that one Vietnamese man had told of being at the Saigon airport and seeing a World Airways plane on the ramp. The man said he had worked in the control tower and knew Mr. Daley. He asked Mr. Daley if he could take his family aboard the plane and was given permission.

This man drove rapidly to his home, the minister said he related, picked up his wife, three children and his mother and drove back to the airport.

"He said he left the keys in his car when he parked it at the airport," Mr. Rickard said. "He said he wouldn't be using it again."

The adult refugees seem to be upper middle class, Mr. Rickard said. The pastor said he did not know whether any were formerly high government officials, and this position was also taken by Mr. Williams, the immigration service district director.

Mr. Rickard said that some of the refugee families had established themselves in private living quarters in Sunday school rooms while others were living dormitory style in a common room. He said the church had spent about \$3,000 for food and clothing for its guests.