

A Possible Site For Refugees

A California National Guard general was sent to Guam yesterday to check on the number and medical condition of Vietnam refugees who may come to California, while the Pentagon was naming Camp Roberts as one of four military bases in the country chosen as possible initial location sites for refugees.

Camp Roberts, which is 43,746 acres near Paso Robles on U.S. 101, 175 miles south of San Francisco, was established during World War II as a basic training camp. Now it is used chiefly for summer training by the National Guard and U.S. Army reserve.

"We would be able to open it up (to refugees) on short notice," a National Guard spokesman said.

The Pentagon spokesman, Major General Winant Sidle, said no final site selection has been made for the refugee operation. But Camp Roberts and military bases

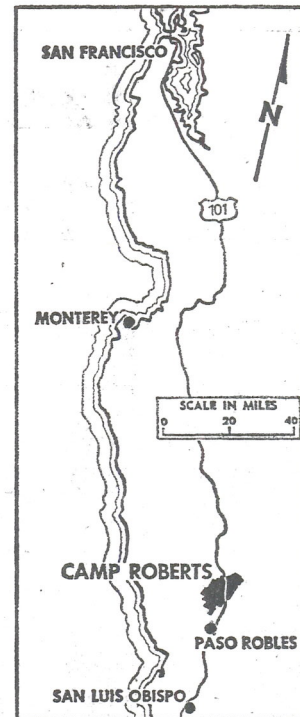
in Virginia, Indiana and Arkansas are under consideration.

The maximum authorized total of Vietnam refugees to be permitted to come to the U.S. is 135,000. Sidle said 40,000 Hungarian refugees were brought to Camp Kilmer, N.J., after the revolt there in 1956 and they stayed in New Jersey several months before permanent homes were found for them.

Of the 135,000 Southeast Asian refugees, only about 5000 would come to California, the state's two U.S. Senators, Alan Cranston and John Tunney, said in a joint statement Thursday.

But Mario Obledo, California's Health and Welfare secretary said yesterday "it has been impossible for us to get any definite information from the federal government on the refugee situation.

"They don't seem to have any plans to handle refugees or numbers so we thought



On the Pentagon's list

we would send our own person to get some first-hand information."

Obledo said he asked Brigadier General Robert S. Ford to fly to Guam to determine the health and economic status of the refugees and what plans are being made for their care in the United States.

Our Correspondent