

# Guam's Sudden Growth

...of the hangars, in  
...under stairways,  
...racks and tents, on  
...under the tropical sky  
...dispensed hospital an-  
...once held wound-  
...Starlines, thousands  
...from South Viet-  
...spending their first  
...away from home.

Every 18 minutes another  
...transport plane, its  
...windows filled with peering  
...touches down with a  
...of refugees, mostly  
...South Vietnamese relatives  
...or employees of Ameri-  
....

The American airlift from  
...Vietnam is turning  
...a sandy dot the size  
...of nine Central Parks, into  
...the fastest-growing Ameri-  
...can community.

"We don't know all their  
...names yet," said a belea-  
...guered American sergeant  
...starting his third day with-  
...out sleep, "but we do know  
...they're here."

Each aircraft carries at  
...least 200 people, and most  
...carry more. The refugees  
...tumble down the ramp to a  
...strange new land as their  
...suitcases are unloaded.  
...minutes the silver  
...Air Force and chartered  
...planes are off again for  
...more loads.

The U.S. Government has  
...authorized admittance of  
...130,000 South Vietnamese  
...into the United States. They  
...will be scattered around the  
...country to minimize the im-  
...pact, officials said. But that  
...total may not be reached.

For now, however, offici-  
...als here are concerned  
...more with evacuating as  
...many South Vietnamese as  
...possible before the fighting  
...shuts down Saigon's Tan Son  
...Nhat Airport. Because of  
...their business or govern-  
...mental associations with  
...Americans, it is feared these  
...refugees might be targets of  
...retaliation for a Communist

regime.

Officials are even uncer-  
...tain here on how many  
...planes are participating in  
...the airlift. One Air Force  
...source estimated 50.

They include a DC 8 and a  
...747 of Northwest Orient Air-  
...lines, an American Airlines  
...747, chartered craft from  
...Trans International and Air  
...Force C-141 Starlifter cargo  
...jets drawn from West Coast  
...units. Twenty minutes out  
...from Guam, inbound pilots  
...are instructed to land at ei-  
...ther Andersen Air Force  
...Base or the Naval Air Sta-  
...tion.

With a minimum of ma-  
...neuvering, the jet planes  
...scream in from the west off

the Pacific Ocean. On the  
...ground a jeep leads the  
...cumbersome craft along  
...taxiways while a string of  
...cars, buses and a ramp  
...truck follow.

The moment the plane  
...stops, stairs are moved up,  
...doors opened, and bewil-  
...dered people clutching straw  
...and paper bags full of pos-  
...sessions stream toward the  
...terminal. Under the plane,  
...Air Force enlisted men do  
...their best at a new job —  
...unloading passenger bag-  
...gage.

In the terminal, scores of  
...Air Force wives and other  
...volunteers work through the  
...night, changing diapers and  
...burping tiny babies while  
...their mothers struggle to

complete forms. Many sleep  
...the night in cavernous hang-  
...ars where the whining of  
...taxiing jets seems not to  
...bother them.

"Temporary" military  
...barracks built during the  
...U.S. involvement in the Viet-  
...nam war have been pressed  
...into service again. Yester-  
...day, the early morning air  
...was filled with the sounds of  
...saws, air hammers and  
...drills as Air Force men and  
...Seabees rewired old build-  
...ings, laid new water lines  
...and erected additional tem-  
...porary toilet facilities.

Diesel generators provide  
...lights. Cargo planes are en  
...route with more tents and  
...additional immigration offi-  
...cers to handle the flood of  
...clearance work.

By this morning on Ander-  
...sen Air Force Base, there  
...were almost three times as  
...many civilians as there  
...were military personnel.

"They told us Wednesday  
...morning that we'd better  
...prepare for 2900 people,"  
...said one lieutenant. "They  
...started arriving that after-  
...noon and they haven't  
...stopped since."

Throughout the night refu-  
...gees in naval facilities  
...would have their names in-  
...scribed on paper file cards.  
...And teams of Vietnamese  
...were being organized to run  
...their own camps. Loud-  
...speakers barked appeals in  
...Vietnamese as family and  
...friends sought to find oth-  
...ers.

Air Force personnel were  
...seeking to bring American  
...technology to bear on the  
...refugee airlift, which has  
...been dubbed "Operation  
...New Life."

The sudden influx to this  
...island has already prompted  
...some local concerns, how-  
...ever. Some citizens voiced  
...fears of sanitation, securi-  
...ty and health problems. But  
...Governor Ricardo Bordabie  
...has called on islanders to  
...help in this "temporary  
...emergency."