

April 27, 1975

S. F. Sunday Examiner
& Chronicle

SF Examiner APR 27 1975

Stopover here for 211 Viets

Another World Airways 727 jet was due at Oakland International Airport early today with 211 Montagnard refugee children and 23 adults from the Vietnamese central highlands.

The Montagnards will stop here for only a day or two before being flown on to temporary homes in Denmark. It wasn't until almost the last moment that the Army gave clearance to house the refugees at the Presidio.

"Because of protocol and because the people are headed for Denmark, it would be better if they didn't stop here," said an Army spokeswoman. Later, however, after consultation with Pentagon officials, the President relented and said the exiles could stay "however long" it was necessary.

The planeload of Montagnards, which has been leapfrogging across the Pacific for the past two days, was escorted by World Airways president Ed Daly as far as Honolulu.

But the aircraft was held at Hickam Air Force Base yesterday because of mechanical problems and immigration delays. It was due in Oakland about 1 a.m. today.

The children, most of whom were between 9 and 12, were the first of the Vietnamese hill tribes to be evacuated from Saigon. The refugees underwent medical checks at Clark Air Base, near Manila, in the Philippines, before leaving for Honolulu.

Most were from a school near DaLat, operated by German officials. They fled to Saigon about five weeks ago when the central highlands town fell to advancing rebel forces.

Danish officials said they don't expect the refugees to settle in Denmark.

The refugees were destined for Padborg, South Jutland, where they will live until the situation in Vietnam is "stabilized."

Meanwhile, Army doctors at the Presidio announced yesterday they will provide precautionary shots for volunteers who have worked with previous planeloads of refugee children.

The inoculations are immune serum globulin, which the physicians said provide "a degree of resistance to hepatitis."

The physicians emphasized no dangerous contagious diseases have been found among the children processed in recent weeks. But in past weeks, more than 300 volunteers, most from the University of San Francisco, suffered painful cases of diarrhea after handling Vietnamese infants.

Shots tomorrow will be available starting 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the immunization clinic, Letterman Army Medical Center.