The Flights to Guam Continue Refugee Facilities Improved

Agana, Guam ANDREW M. MALCOLM

The massive American airlift of South Vietnamese refugees to Guam resumed here today after a 36-hour lapse to give officials and soldiers time to prepare for the arrival of 6009 more people per day.

The resumption. marked by the arrival of 821 refugees in 60 minutes at two airfields, came as immigration officials promised improved efforts to move many of the 20,000 already here on to the continental United States as quickly as possible.

So far, fewer than 1200, most of them American citizens, have left this island.

Navy meteorologists were keeping a close watch on a number of unusual regional weather developments. including a developing typhoon, that could wreak havoc with the burgeoning refugee tent city here.

"We don't expect a typhoon," said Rear Admiral G. Stephen Morrison, "but the weather is a definite concern."

Attention focused on the Orote Point refugee camp, the largest of ten such facilities here. Until Thursday the 50-acre site was just an abandoned Japanese airfield overgrown with jungle trees and bushes. But since then several thousand tents — no one in the confusion here has time to count them have been erected on the raw red coral soil. Some of the more than 3000 refugees at Orote have cots to sleep on. But many have only mattresses, pieces of cardboard or just blankets.

A rainstorm of the type typical here would create severe living problems. A typhoon could destroy the camp. Rain was predicted yesterday from weather systems accompanying the developing typhoon, which was 500 miles away. according to satellite. aircraft and shipping reports.

Refugee arrivals here were suspended Saturday and the planes were ordered on to Wake Island, a tiny atoll 1300 miles northeast of Guam. Officials said 8161 evacuees are on the threesquare-mile island now.

Morrison ordered the resumption of landings here when more than 1000 military men from all services caught up with construction of housing, sanitation and other facilities for the refugee crush. Officials say upward of 50,000 refugees, who are fleeing feared Communist retaliation for their political or business affiliations. could pass through Guam.

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Story is by Andrew H. Malcolm, NYT, which gives the figure as 2,161.