

REFUGEE AIRLIFT TO GUAM RESUMES

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U.S. Servicemen Catch Up
With Need for Facilities—
Bad Weather a Danger
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AGANA, Guam, Monday, April 28—The last 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 6,000 more people a day.

The resumption, marked by the arrival of 821 refugees in 60 minutes at two airfields, came as immigration officials vowed improved efforts to move many of the 20,000 refugees already here on to the continental United States as quickly as possible. So far fewer than 1,200, most of them American citizens, have left this island.

At the same time, Navy meteorologists were keeping a close watch on a number of unusual weather developments, including a developing typhoon, that could cause havoc with the growing refugee tent city here.

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

Attention focused on the

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Orote Point refugee camp, the largest of 10 such facilities here. Since Thursday several thousand tents—no one in the confusion here has time to count them—have been erected on the 50-acre site, which was an abandoned Japanese airfield overgrown with jungle trees and bushes.

Some of the more than 3,000 refugees now at Orote have cots to sleep on. But many have only mattresses, pieces of cardboard or blankets only.

A rainstorm of the type typical here would create severe problems. A typhoon could

destroy the camp. Rain was predicted today 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, many fewer of them, were ordered on to Wake Island, a tiny atoll some 1,300 miles northeast of here. Officials said 2,161 evacuees were on the three-square-mile island now.

Admiral Morrison ordered the resumption of landings here when more than 1,000 military men from all services caught up with the construction of housing, sanitation and other facilities for the refugee crush. Officials say upward of 50,000 refugees, who are fleeing in fear of Communist retaliation for their political or business affiliations, could pass through here.

Refugees Help

The admiral, who is commander of all United States naval forces in the Marianas Islands, said workmen along with some volunteer refugee laborers would now be able to stay ahead of the arriving civilians, erecting tents one day that would be occupied the next.

He expected a total of 4,000 tents, each housing 35 to 50 people, to all but blanket Orote Point. Water and power lines are being laid. Dozens of new supply flights are on the way with tents, pipe and foods, he said.

The admiral added that he did not know how much Operation New Life, as it is called, would cost. "But I have been assured by higher authorities that I'll be covered for any necessary expenses," he said.

About 700 Guam citizens have offered to house refugees in their homes. But officials of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which until Saturday had only five representatives here, have confined the evacuees to their camps.

There, a force of 83 immigration officers, drawn from posts around the country, began early today to start the paperwork that will grant at least temporary residence in the continental United States to refugees without passports.

The Need for Speed

Durwood E. Powell, deputy assistant commissioner of inspections with the Immigration Service, said his staff would work around the clock if necessary to process the civilians. "It is our desire to clear these people out as fast as possible," he said.

Same story, as carried by SFC, gives figure as 8,161.

Mr. Powell has estimated that his teams could process 3,200 persons in an eight-hour day. But that would leave the island's refugee population expanding at the rate of about 2,800 a day. Facilities are already strained.

He said the original 90-day estimate for clearing all refugees here was now outdated and the program would take many months.

Refugees will have to complete a series of forms that could provide the government with reasons for excluding

them from the United States. These would include serious criminal records, a history of subversive activity and various health problems such as insanity.

Mr. Powell said he was not certain what would happen to those who fell into such categories, but he said they definitely would not be repatriated to South Vietnam.

Special Treatment for Some

With the completion of these forms, including fingerprinting, refugees will be issued "paroles," which are in effect temporary United States residence permits. These will entitle

the refugees to a flight to the United States, where they can apply later for permanent residency.

Certain refugees, such as mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters of American citizens, can receive early consideration, he said.

All refugees will receive health examinations on landing in the United States. So far, all of the flights have gone to Travis Air Force Base near San Francisco.

Until summoned by immigration authorities, however, being a refugee here today means just waiting. "I have nothing to complain about though," said

Trinh Dinh Dong, who had sold miscellaneous items from a Saigon sidewalk stand. "We are provided with everything."

Like most refugees here, Mr. Dong has had no time to make plans. He is not sure where California is, but he knows he is going there first to stay with his daughter in Downey.

Late last night officials here announced that because of the pressures of the refugee airlift, Queen Elizabeth II had cancelled her two-day visit scheduled for

May 2 to 4. Her plane now will simply refuel at Guam's suddenly bustling airport where every flight is an international one.