

# Lift Delayed; Refugee Sites Are Set in U.S.

## Bases Chosen 5½-Hour Halt

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The Ford administration prepared for a continuing influx of refugees from Vietnam and designated receiving centers for them at military bases in three states, as congressional demands intensified yesterday to close down American operations in Saigon.

President Ford called the National Security Council into session at the White House last night to consider the rapidly deteriorating Vietnam situation. Pentagon officials said there were 6,000 U.S. Marines available in the area who could be used to protect an emergency evacuation.

Alarm increased in Congress that 954 Americans still remaining in South Vietnam may be trapped in the fighting, which has now reached the edge of the capital. Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield (Mont.) and Senate Republican Leader Hugh Scott (Pa.) joined in the rising demands to remove all Americans immediately.

Administration officials, however, said earlier that no orders had gone out to terminate the evacuation airlift, and said the American embassy personnel are required in Saigon to handle the refugee flow and to coordinate other "humanitarian help." This makes the Americans "hostages" to the Vietnam refugees, congressional critics charged.

The Defense Department announced yesterday that "within the next two days" the movement of Indochina refugees from Guam and other U.S. bases in the Pacific will begin to "temporary housing sites" in the United States. The refu-

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From News Dispatches

The bombing of Saigon halted the U.S. evacuation from Saigon for 5½ hours yesterday, but before the bombs fell nearly 5,000 persons got out and reached the Pacific island haven of Guam.

Scores of immigration officers were processing the estimated 25,000 refugees on Guam, but a shortage of aircraft slowed down the transfer of South Vietnamese from Guam to the United States.

Officials said about 1,300 persons left Guam for the United States yesterday on six chartered aircraft. This was a much lower figure than had been anticipated, they said.

Nearly 30 planeloads of refugees landed at Guam in the 24 hours before the air lift was temporarily halted. The daily average last week was nearly 50 flights.

At Clark Air Base in the Philippines, cargo planes filled with as many as 180 Vietnamese landed at half-hour intervals. The evacuees gulped sandwiches and then boarded larger planes for flights to Guam and Wake Island.

Only the overflow who could not be immediately sent on to the two U.S.-owned islands were housed at Clark. The Philippine government, anxious to readjust its previous one-sided relationship with the United States, has asked that the role of the base there be kept to a minimum.

Official Philippine sources told United Press International that high-ranking South Vietnamese leaders would not be welcome and might even be detained if they touched down at Clark en route from South Vietnam.

The Philippine government  
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## DIPLOMACY, From A1

gee total in the Pacific now exceeds 38,000, officials said.

Bases designated to serve as receiving centers for up to 20,000 refugees each are: Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, Calif.; Eglin Air Force Base in Florida, and Ft. Chaffee in Arkansas, primarily used for training National Guard and reserve units.

These bases will provide temporary housing for refugees "for 90 days or more," Pentagon spokesmen said, "to reduce the large buildup of refugees" at bases in the Pacific.

State Department officials said there is no indication so far that the transfer of government power in South Vietnam to Gen. Duong Van (Big) Minh as President will affect the refugee flow. Communist pressure on Minh, or Communist military action, could shut down the airlift.

White House press secretary Ron Nessen said President Ford has sent no message to Minh so far, but the United States regards the transfer of power to him as part of the constitutional process and "we will work with the (new) government."

As many members of Congress see the situation, the Ford administration is deliberately dragging its feet on removing the last Americans from South Vietnam.

As the administration sees it, Congress is being inconsistent in demanding the closing of the American embassy in Saigon while a vote is still pending in the House today on a Senate-passed conference report providing \$327 million for refugee aid and evacuation from South Vietnam. This legislation limits use of any American troops to evacuate South Vietnamese.

A \$165 million appropriation bill for military assistance to South Vietnam, now regarded as overtaken by events, was taken off the House schedule yesterday.

In the Senate, Mansfield said, "I want all Americans out" of Saigon now.

Scott also said, "I would favor taking them all out at once," while Sen. Dick Clark (D-Iowa) protested that the evacuation of Americans "has slowed down to less than a trickle."

Clark asked if Americans were being used as "a bargaining chip" to cover the evacuation of South Vietnamese. Only 65 Americans were evacuated in the last 24-hour period, and 75 the day before, he said, compared to 6,000 South Vietnamese evacuated.

At the White House, Nessen said the decision on evacuating Americans is up to

Ambassador Graham A. Martin in Saigon. "I think this is a mistake," responded Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.)

Assistant Senate Democratic Leader Robert C. Byrd (W. Va.) said he has "serious reservations" about bringing "as many as 130,000 South Vietnamese refugees to the United States" when "more than eight million Americans are unemployed" and the refugees face "vast cultural differences."

Scott, however, asked the Senate for an end to "niggling and nit-picking" about the evacuees, saying there is "no need to fear too great an influx" of refugees into any one state.

## REFUGEES From A1

ment underscored its position yesterday by impounding a DC-6 aircraft operated under a U.S. contract by Bird Airways when the plane landed at Clark from Saigon.

Bird's planes played a role in airlifts that supplied the now-overthrown government of former Cambodian President Lon Nol. Philippine officers at Clark said that since the plane was not a military aircraft it was subject to the Philippines' customs and immigrations laws.

In Saigon, an American official said the United States has stopped using C-141 jet transport planes in the airlift for fear of heat-seeking ground-to-air rockets.

Instead, the official said, propeller-driven C-130 transports will be used. This is expected to slow down the flow of refugees from Saigon, since the C-130s are smaller and slower than the C-141 jets.

On Guam, a sprawling tent city thrown up astride an abandoned airstrip grew larger by the day. Officials said there were already

nearly 2,000 tents, with U.S. Navy Seabees working day and night to erect more.

The Vietnamese were beginning to settle into a routine in the tent city. A radio station on the island began four daily Vietnamese-language broadcasts, and some refugees helped serve food and clean up the area.

Rear Admiral George S. Morrison, who is in charge of the refugee operation on Guam, said he was still prepared to receive as many as 50,000 persons, though he had no information on how many actually would arrive.

Morrison also said the flow of refugees from Guam to the United States has not been as great as had been anticipated.

"The actual outflow has not been good because we haven't been able to establish a steady stream of outgoing aircraft," he told a news conference. "This is one of my No. 1 priorities—to find aircraft to move these people eastward."

Meanwhile, the Chicago Daily News reported from Vietnam that thousands of refugees trying to enter Vungtau, a coastal city 30

miles south of Saigon, were turned back by government troops. The refugees were apparently fleeing a Communist attack at nearby Baria.

Vungtau was reported to be in pandemonium, as thousands of refugees tried to get on boats that would take them into the South China Sea, away from the anticipated Communist shelling.

The city is considered by many Vietnamese the last hope of escape, since ships from the U.S. 7th Fleet are waiting off the coast.

Elsewhere, there were these developments related to the refugee evacuation:

• President Ferdinand E. Marcos of the Philippines said his government will reassess and renegotiate "all our relations with the United States" in a spirit of "friendship and caution." Speaking at a labor conference, he said the reassessment would include economic relations as well as defense agreements.

• Australia's acting foreign affairs minister, William Morrison, said his government has decided to end its refugee airlift from Saigon because of the risk to air-

craft from rocket attacks and because Australia could offer no diplomatic protection following withdrawal of its embassy staff from Saigon.