

Mme. Ky Among Travis Refugees

By Don Wegars

The wife of former South Vietnamese premier Nguyen Cao Ky was believed to be in San Francisco yesterday after a last minute escape from the crumbling city of Saigon.

Madame Ky arrived late Monday night at Travis Air Force Base with 211 other refugees, including 13 persons listed as members of her family.

Her husband, the former air marshal who became premier after a 1965 coup, was not with Madame Ky.

The South Vietnamese consulate here formally denied any knowledge of her arrival. But one official said:

"She wants to be secret and not see the press. Any efforts to locate her will be no good."

Last Friday, Ky denounced as cowards those fleeing South Vietnam, saying to his countrymen "Whatever you do, do not leave your homeland." Ky himself fled Saigon yesterday and was aboard a U.S. warship.

A Travis spokesman said Madame Ky was processed through customs and immigration within a half hour of her 11 p.m. landing, then made several telephone calls before leaving with her party.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service said her paperwork had been taken care of somewhere overseas and that her eventual destination was listed as Washington.

Another 461 refugees, most of them Vietnamese dependents or relatives of Americans, landed yesterday at the Solano county air base.

"In almost every case," a spokesman said, "they have some sort of connection here — phone numbers of relatives or friends or some sponsoring agency."

Ninety-nine Montagnard children, airlifted from Vietnam last Friday in what was described by flight organizers as an attempt to save their tribes from extinction, took off from Oakland yes-

terday for Denmark.

The children had been housed at The Presidio while awaiting the flight, which is to take them to South Jutland.

Hundreds of other refugees were arriving in Southern California yesterday from staging areas in the Philippines, Guam, Wake Island and Hawaii.

Officials at the Marine base at Camp Pendleton said arrangements are being made to handle 20,000 refugees in the next several days.

A California National Guard officer, sent to Guam Friday to check on the refugee situation, said Monday that "there were no substantial health problems" that might cause trouble for the state.

Brigadier General Robert S. Ford also reported that the majority of the refugees were middle class Vietnamese, "a substantial number" of whom spoke English.

SF
Chiron
4-30-75