

Red Tape Cut for Evacuees

AGANA, Guam, April 29 (AP)—Immigration authorities cut through red tape Tuesday and adopted simplified procedures to speed nearly 25,000 anxious Vietnamese refugees as fast as possible to the United States.

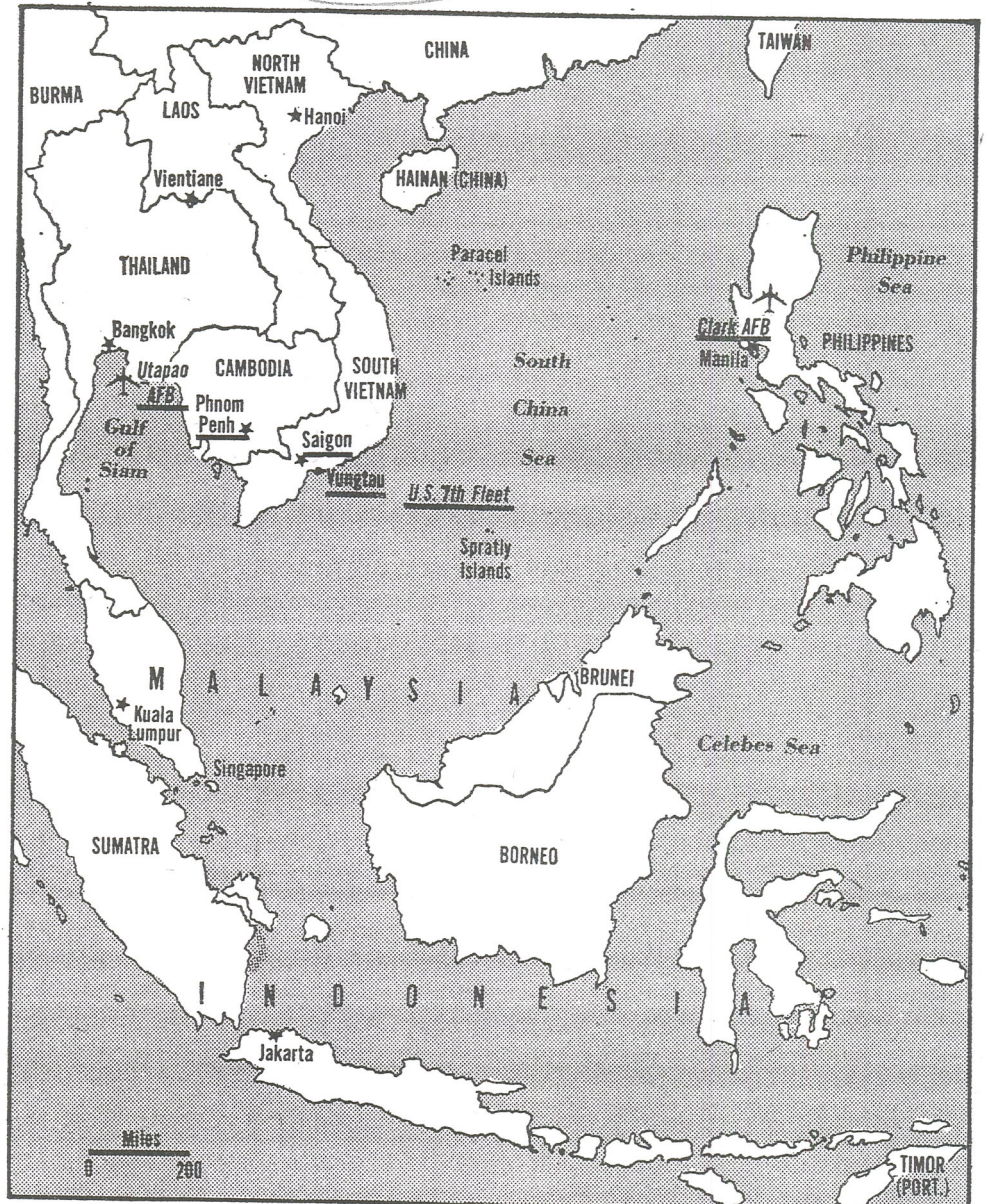
"We want to move people out of Guam," said Edward F. O'Connor of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. "There are obvious problems here."

Among the problems are a crowded and growing "tent city" and food. Meanwhile, more than 2,000 refugees have arrived on Wake Island, a flat, sand-covered atoll 1,500 miles east of Guam which is being used to take some of the pressure off Guam.

Air Force officials say there is room for four times that number on Wake without resorting to temporary shelters.

The backlog of refugees on Guam has swollen with round-the-clock flights from Saigon and the Philippines. More than 27,000 refugees have arrived here, but fewer than 3,000 had moved on to

OVER



By Joseph P. Mastrangelo—The Washington Post

The number of evacuees at Clark Field in the Philippines yesterday was about 7,000. Others were ferried on to Guam where another tent city was developed.

the United States by Tuesday morning.

"Prudence would dictate that these people be removed as rapidly as possible," said Dr. Delmar W. Ruthig, a federal health official from San Francisco.

He said most of the refugees were in excellent health, but 72 needed hospitalization here. But he said a close watch was being kept on sewer facilities and the area also was sprayed as a precaution against malaria.

The worst of the red tape delay had been individual half-hour interviews with each refugee. That's now cut to five minutes.

"We have told the Air Force that we can start moving 2,000 to 2,500 people a day to start," said Durward E. Powell of the Immigration Service.

In addition to chartered aircraft, Air Force C-141 cargo planes were pressed into service. They had been returning to the United States empty after bringing tents, costs and other supplies to Guam.

At least one busload of newly arrived refugees apparently had gotten word Monday of long food lines which had caused some to faint in the heat. They re-

fused to get off the bus at "tent city" to take their place in line.

"This is the worst situation," said Adm. G. Steve Morrison, commander of Naval Forces in the Marianas. "There are too many people standing in line for food."

However, he said three food tents would be operating by Wednesday and that additional food supplies are on the way, including 4,000 tons of rice.

"I've been told that's a lot of rice for 50,000 people," he said. "But it's like buying beer for a picnic

—you don't have enough unless you're going to have some left over."

About 150 Air Force personnel from Hawaii are at Wake, providing support services for Vietnamese refugees who arrived on commercial and military evacuation flights over the weekend.

Food, eating utensils, bedding, clothing and diapers are being flown in from Honolulu, 2,300 miles east of Wake.

More military personnel and more supplies will be sent if and when they are needed, officials said. They said the refugee operation at Wake was going very smoothly.

Wake, which was turned

over to the U. S. Air Force in 1973 after serving for years as a Federal Aviation Administration outpost, has a normal population of 225.

Most are employes of Kentron Corp., which operates the 2.5-square-mile island under a contract from the Air Force.

Many Evacuees Say They Faced No Peril

CLARK AIR BASE, Philippines, April 29 (UPI)—Interviews with some of the 7,000 South Vietnamese evacuees still remaining here indicate many would probably have been safe in Saigon.

A few said they already wished they had never left.

At least half of the evacuees living in tents and makeshift facilities here are older women and their children, teenage girls and elderly people.

One angry Vietnamese in his late 40s said, "How come these people were flown out while thousands of capable Vietnamese males, who have a solid profession and who will be the first victims of the Communists, were simply left behind?"

Some of those interviewed said they had no real pur-

pose in leaving South Vietnam other than the lure of going to the United States.

Others said bluntly they had never seen the war and the Communist threat was not the main reason for their leaving. But only a few were willing to explain how they managed to get out.

One prosperous-looking Vietnamese man about 45 years old said he paid 7 million piasters (about \$9,500) to an American to be able to make the trip to Clark. He said he and his wife cost 4 million piasters and their three children another 3 million.

The personal pilot of former Vietnamese President of former Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu flew a planeload of refugees from Saigon into Clark Tuesday and won Philippine agreement to proceed to political sanctuary in the United States.

Official sources said Lt. Col. Ngo Van Quang, former pilot of Thieu, who himself has sought refuge in Taipei, flew a DC-6 aircraft with 123 aboard including Vietnamese air force military personnel and their dependents. He landed without clearance in defiance of the Philippine government.