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**Saigon Refugees Land Here Exhausted**

By DEIRDRE CARMODY

In the dimly lit back room of Ming's restaurant on Park Avenue South, two Vietnamese children lay their heads down next to their dishes of rice yesterday afternoon and fell asleep.

They had been traveling almost steadily since Saturday night, when they left their house in Saigon with their parents, five brothers and sisters, an uncle, an aunt and an 8-year-old cousin. They arrived here at midday on a flight from San Francisco and were met by representatives of the International Rescue Committee, which is putting up the families at the Latham Hotel until homes can be found for them.

"You pass through the period of depression," Pham Trong Y, the uncle, said quietly. "There's nothing but exhaustion left."

Pham Trong Y is not his real name, and he was obviously terrified to give out any details about himself or his family or about their escape from Saigon. He said that he had relatives still living there and was afraid of reprisals.

#### Weeks-Long Discussion

Mr. Y, who is 35 years old, was a salesman for a pharmaceutical company. His brother, who is 56 years old and has seven children, is an obstetrician and gynecologist. For weeks they discussed whether

to leave or stay, and a week ago, concerned about the future of the children, they decided they must go.

"The situation was becoming more critical every day and there was panic all about, but we never discussed this with our friends," Mr. Y said, switching back and forth from English to French. "Everyone was very discrete but we knew that there were people who were ready to kill themselves and their children rather than submit."

"We made preparations," Mr. Y said, smiling wryly. "Preparations, that's a big word to describe it. We went out and bought one sack for everyone. Then we gave the servants a year's pay, locked the house and left. Some of the children cried."

#### Sandwiches and Juices

Mr. Y was reluctant to discuss any details about how he managed to get aboard a flight or to say who had helped him. He would say only that at the given time they had been taken to a meeting place and then driven to the airplane, a foreign cargo carrier. They flew for almost two days. The plane had no seats, only blankets on the floor. Much of the time they did not even know where it was they were stopping to refuel.

The children, who had not even been allowed to bring

toys, ate sandwiches and fruit juice. Some cried. Some slept. Some were frightened.

They were met at Travis Air Force Base by Halleck L. Rose, a representative of the International Rescue Committee, and taken to San Francisco. Since refugees from Vietnam are pouring into the West Coast, the committee wants to relocate them in other parts of the country, so they brought the two families to New York. Today the committee will begin the long task of getting immigration papers for them and finding them homes, probably outside of the city.

After lunch at Ming's restaurant, the families filed out, their large, expressive eyes blinking with sleepiness. They seemed oblivious of their new surroundings, as if they had only one reaction left in them.

"It's very cold here," said one little boy, saying it for all.

#### McGovern Opposes Airlift

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 29 (UPI)—Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, said today that he was opposed to large numbers of Vietnamese refugees being brought to the United States, "including the orphans and babies" because they would be "better off in Vietnam." "I was opposed to this airlift," he said. "The Vietnamese have a strong tradition of taking care of their children."



The New York Times/Neal Boenzi

**South Vietnamese who arrived here yesterday at Ming's restaurant on Park Avenue South. Two families who left Saigon on a foreign cargo plane Saturday were flown to New York from San Francisco by the International Rescue Committee.**