

SFChronicle

Refugees in Philippines

MAY 1 1975

Leave Fast

Clark Air Base,
Philippines

More than 4000 Vietnamese were hustled out of the Philippines yesterday to appease the government and make room for the expected arrival of evacuees from Saigon.

Their departure to staging areas on Guam and Wake Island — accomplished by a virtual bumper-to-bumper takeoff of military aircraft — emptied the tent city that only three days ago had been teeming with thousands of refugees. It made the deserted refugee camp available for the Vietnamese who were plucked from South Vietnam Tuesday and yesterday by helicopter and ship.

Reports reaching here said thousands of refugees — in addition to the 5500 or so removed by helicopter and announced by Washington — were picked up along the South Vietnamese coast by the armada of U.S. vessels that had plied the South China Sea for two weeks.

Their pending arrival has caused some uncertainties in the Manila-Washington relationship. The Philippines government expressed displeasure at the use of its soil for what it considers to be a political evacuation effort.

Los Angeles Times