

# Guam Refugees Mourn for Saigon, Then Face Future

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TAMUNING, Guam, Thursday, May 1—The collapse of South Vietnam, and especially the fall of Saigon, brought tears to the eyes of many refugees here last night.

By this morning, however, the tears were gone. And the need to establish a new way of life—or at least a new set of identity papers—seemed of far more immediate concern to the refugees here.

"It is over," said one South Vietnamese journalist. "Now we must think of the new land of ours, the United States."

Most of the refugees appear to be well-educated professionals or their relatives, much like the thousands of refugees who fled Fidel Castro's Cuba in the nineteen-sixties. Today's refugees are doctors, lawyers, businessmen, government workers and educators, whose wealth, political leanings or associations with American companies or officials would seem to make them prime targets for reprisals by any Communist regime.

These are urban citizens,

primarily, the middle-class and upper-class South Vietnamese whose affluence and frequent intellectual independence would clash with the strict egalitarian and authoritarian framework of the Communists.

## People With Connections

There are also the South Vietnamese who had connections to get on an evacuation flight, often at the last minute, thanks to their friendship or political association with South Vietnamese government or military leaders, or United States agencies and programs.

Such was the case for Ngo Thi Thuy Hong, whose husband was a South Vietnamese government official and got them through the Saigon airport gate. But he stayed behind and, unlike most refugees here, Mrs. Hong wants to return to Saigon.

Nguyen Huu Kinh, an attorney, will not return. "I hate the Communists so much," he said, "but only my feet can speak for me and I let them take me away."

He had 15 minutes' notice of his departure from Saigon last week. He grabbed one extra set of clothes and his law diploma and joked to his parents that he was leaving town. "I don't like emo-

tional scenes," he said, "but I think they knew. It was my decision."

And so, for him, the fall of Saigon was a foregone conclusion. For Nguyen Van Quon, however, the collapse came too suddenly. A restaurateur on Truong Minh Ky Street, Mr. Quon delayed selling his house even though he was offered substantial sums. In recent days, when he did want to sell, he could not find anyone willing even to bid.

## 'I Lost Everything'

"I lost everything—my house, my car, my clothes, everything," he said. "Even three of my daughters who stayed behind to take a later plane." There was no later plane. "I am still dazed," he said.

Mr. Quon was convinced he would be killed by the Vietnamese Communists, who jailed him for three years in the late nineteen-forties.

Others feared harm too, especially persons who worked for the United States governmental agencies like Nguyen Ngoc Hue, a management specialist who has two small children to care for.

"We are so worried about our families back in Saigon,"

she said as she sat in an immigration line today to get the proper form for travel to California. "There are threats," she added, "that they will behead everyone who worked for the Americans." But she thought that the end of large-scale fighting was good because it brought peace finally to South Vietnamese civilians.

Ma Thi Nga, who was a secretary in the United States Consulate in Can Tho, left her town to visit Saigon briefly one day last week. She carried only a small travel bag. She never returned to her home, because she was able to get on a plane that was leaving immediately. Now she cannot explain her disappearance to her parents, since she fears that such correspondence from abroad could hurt them.

Lam Duc Danh, a schoolteacher whose home was in Saigon but who taught on the central Vietnamese coast, had not communicated with his family in weeks. If he tries now, he will find the house in Saigon empty.

His family is on the way to California, where the oldest son, Phong, will seek work in a shipyard. "We will pray now for no more war," he said. That was an almost universal expression of relief.