

SFChronicle
30,000
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New Viet
Refugees

Washington

President Ford yesterday authorized entry to the United States for at least 30,000 more South Vietnamese refugees.

The President's announcement came as administration officials said that the number of refugees needing resettlement continues to rise and now stands at about 120,000.

The 30,000 refugees are those whom Washington officials learned about only Thursday night. They are in fishing vessels sailing with a U.S. escort for the Philippines. (MAY

Mr. Ford's order also includes refugees who have fled from Vietnam but whose whereabouts are unknown to Washington officials at this time.

According to the latest statistics available at the Indochina task force on refugees at the State Department, 8094 refugees have already been resettled in permanent homes in the United States.

High government officials assembled at the State Department yesterday afternoon to take a new look at the situation before asking Congress for more funds to pay for evacuation maintenance and resettlement.

One official said that when Mr. Ford informed speaker Carl Albert April 30 that the administration would need at least \$400 million, he estimated that figure on the basis of 70,000 refugees to be

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30,000 REFUGEES

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resettled in the United States.

"But if you're talking about twice that figure of refugees, you're talking about twice the costs," one State Department official said.

State Department spokesman Robert L. Funseth spoke of the administration's reason for the latest authorization for refugees: "The administration believes it has a moral obligation to help these refugees who fled from the Communist takeover in Vietnam."

Immigration officials have said that the administration may on its own admit up to 129,000 South Vietnamese refugees under federal law. It is customary, however, for the administration to go to Congress for authorization in such instances.

The law authorizes the U.S. attorney general to institute what is called a "parole" program in which refugees who have no formal papers or permission to enter the country are allowed to enter the United States immediately without going

through extensive processing and red tape.

Other officials said the United States is actively seeking to place South Vietnamese refugees in foreign countries to ease the cost and resettlement problem.

Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain have quietly expressed interest in accepting South Vietnamese with personal and family ties in those countries, one State Department official said.

U.S. embassies abroad have been instructed by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger to sound out their host countries on the question of accepting refugees.

About 4400 persons were at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and at Ft. Chaffee, Ark., yesterday morning. More arrivals are scheduled.

Funseth said that so far about 117,500 refugees have been evacuated by the United States or have fled Vietnam by other means. This total, he said, includes the 30,000 now sailing on fishing boats for Subic Bay in the Philippines, escorted by the U.S. Navy.

United Press