

WXPost
McGovern:

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Refugees

Return Home

United Press International

Sen. George McGovern (D-S.D.) has called for the voluntary return of most South Vietnamese refugees to Saigon.

In a lecture prepared for delivery at Eastern Illinois University today, McGovern said, "America will not turn away those few who might be endangered by a return to their homeland."

But he added that "90 per cent of the Vietnamese refugees who left would be better off going back to their own land now that the initial panic has subsided.

"The final blunder of Vietnam may be that the administration has chosen evacuation of nearly 100,000 Vietnamese as a substitute for accommodation in their own country. That policy should be reversed.

"I have never thought that more than a handful of government leaders were in any real danger of reprisals. The great majority of Vietnamese refugees do not fall into that category. Most of them left in panic out of fear of a bloody final battle for Saigon that did not materialize."

McGovern said it was unlikely that the new government would "engage in the bloodbath our policymakers have talked about so much."