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25 Refugee Ships Anchor Off Singapore

SINGAPORE, May 4 (Reuters) — Twenty-five vessels crammed with more than 3,000 South Vietnamese refugees are anchored off Singapore awaiting supplies of food, maps and medicines, a senior government official said today.

The official, Tay Deow Hwa, a secretary in the Ministry of Defense, said the refugees — who include doctors, teachers, policemen, businessmen and students — are seeking to go on to either Subic Bay in the Philippines, Guam or Australia.

He said they had promised to leave Singapore after replenishing their supplies and had offered to pay for provisions.

The secretary said the Government of Singapore had agreed in principle to supply the refugees. He added that the vessels, ranging in size from 100 to 8,000 tons, began arriving here on May 2 and that there were no military craft among the vessels.

Not Allowed Ashore

None of the refugees were given permission to come ashore here, Mr. Tay said, adding that the evacuees had appealed to the Australian, American and Canadian governments to let them into those countries.

The biggest group aboard any one vessel, the 8,000-ton Dong Hai, totals 822 refugees, including new-born infants and several children.

Mr. Tay said that a tight naval cordon had been thrown around the vessels, which are anchored in two groups off Singapore.

"Although there are some Vietnamese doctors on board

these ships, our medical officers are also helping to look after the welfare of the refugees," he said.

Mr. Tan quoted some of the refugees as having said that they had had to flee their country within an hour of the Communist take-over of Saigon.

He also quoted them as having said that many of them were on the list of those people who were to have been evacuated by the United States authorities, but had been left behind.

He said it would be Tuesday before the first few vessels would be sufficiently replenished to continue their journey.

Refugees in Hong Kong

HONG KONG, May 4 (Reuters). About 4,500 South Vietnamese refugees, picked up by a passing Danish freighter from a sinking South Vietnamese ship, arrived here tonight.

A police spokesman said that the refugees included more than 1,000 children—three of them new-born babies—and 200 men believed to be soldiers of the former Saigon Government.

Twenty-six refugees needed medical attention and were taken to a hospital in ambulances immediately on arrival. The others were whisked off in army trucks to relief camps, where they will stay until arrangements have been made for them to continue their journey to countries willing to receive them.

Capt. Anton Olsen of the Clara Maersk said that the ship, the Truong Xuan, was sinking when his vessel reached the scene off South Vietnam last Friday in answer to a distress call. 2 21 17

Two girls and one boy were born aboard the freighter as it headed for Hong Kong, Captain Olsen said. One of the girls was named Clara after the freighter, he added.

Arrival at Subic Bay

SUBIC BAY, the Philippines, May 4 (Reuters)—One of the biggest sea evacuations in history entered its final phase here today when 11 United States Navy ships dropped anchor at Subic Bay Naval Base and began disembarking 27,000 refugees from South Vietnam.

The ships, part of an armada of more than 40, unloaded Vietnamese, Americans and others, including the former United States Ambassador in Saigon, Graham A. Martin, and former Premier, Nguyen Cao Ky.

Mr. Ky joined 140 other Vietnamese—mostly barefoot and unsmiling—aboard a C-130 plane for a direct flight to Guam.

The Philippines has ruled that prominent Vietnamese leaders should not remain at United States bases here, and a Philippine navy captain was on hand to make sure Mr. Ky was flown out immediately.

The refugees on the American ships were being flown on to Guam. The C-130's were taking off every half hour throughout the night.

American officials in Guam said the number of refugees expected this week had swelled to 80,000 and was still growing daily. So far, about 16,000 have passed through on their way to the United States, but 30,000 others are still awaiting their flights in a city of tents.