

# REFUGEES SETTLE IN CONNECTICUT

## 2 Vietnamese Families Find New Hartford Residents Generous and Friendly

By LAWRENCE FELLOWS

Special to The New York Times

NEW HARTFORD, Conn., May 3—Almost everyone who has taken notice has tried to help make life comfortable for two families of Vietnamese refugees here.

The refugees—two brothers, their wives and eight children—are in the vanguard of the refugees from the Vietnam war who might eventually settle in the United States.

While some are said to be running into resentment in other parts of the country, almost no resentment has been felt in this attractive old town of 4,000 people, in the wooded hills of northwestern Connecticut, where dozens are already helping the newcomers.

"It's unbelievable," said Carole Karvazy, who had prompted the International Rescue Committee to place the two refugee families in the care of the people of New Hartford. She has been coping as best she could with telephone calls home since the two families arrived in New York on Tuesday. People have given money, food, clothes, blankets and toys and have offered to take the refugees into their homes.

### Veteran's Wife Skeptical

"One woman whose husband fought in Vietnam was a little bit concerned," Mrs. Karvazy recalled. "This woman said her husband saw his buddies falling all around him, and she asked 'Why should we be helping?' But in the end she was seeing things differently. She's even going to come to our next meeting."

Mrs. Karvazy has a special feeling for the refugees and a special understanding of their plight. Her husband, Levente, was a refugee from the Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956. As the Karvazys see it, they would never have met if he had not been brought over to the United States.

"You know, when you are dumped in a city and a country, among people you don't know, you can pretty easily get lost—you become a kind of casualty," said Mr. Karvazy, who was brought over by the International Rescue Committee.

"We contacted them when this thing happened," Mrs. Karvazy said with regard to the refugees. "We contacted the churches and asked, 'are they concerned? Would they be interested in helping?'"

### Staying at Retreat

All the churches in New Hartford and some in nearby towns responded favorably.

The two families are being put up at Camp Trinita, a retreat in the hills on the edge of town. The camp is owned by Roman Catholic nuns of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity.

"It's slightly ecumenical," said the Rev. Theodore W. Barlow, the Methodist who is director of the camp. "The place is open to all."

At night the 12 Vietnamese sleep in a cottage at the camp. In the daytime they move easily and fairly inconspicuously around the farmhouse where the Barlows and their five youngsters live. The older children play cards. The younger ones color in books, amuse themselves with dolls or run off to play together without taking much notice of the language barrier.

"At first they were very shy," one of the Vietnamese brothers said. "Children get friendly very easily, very quickly."

### Some Couldn't Escape

He asked that their names and precise information about them be withheld. A sister and her husband and family got out of Saigon and, with the help of the American Red Cross, are being taken care of in California. But other brothers and sisters and their families, 40 persons altogether, were unable to leave Saigon in time, the brothers said, and they feared for their lives.

The older brother is a physician. The younger is a computer programmer. He had been in the South Vietnamese Army and was a thrice-wounded liaison officer to the Americans, which helped persuade the American forces to get him out of the country. Both brothers speak some English.

They were flown out of Saigon last Sunday, leaving their belongings behind. A delegation of New Hartford people met them in New York with three cars to take them to the retreat.

Karin Barlow, the minister's wife, said she managed to feed the families the first day by making a casserole with rice, vegetables and pork.

"I've hardly done anything since then," she said, noting that the Vietnamese women had gradually eased her out of her kitchen to take over the work. A 25-pound bag of rice was sitting prominently on the counter.

"We like rice," Mr. Barlow said. "We really do."