

Ford Asks \$507 Million Refugee Aid

By Lawrence Meyer
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Ford administration asked Congress yesterday to authorize \$507 million in new funds for evacuating, transporting and resettling 150,000 Vietnamese refugees.

President Ford's request was greeted with little enthusiasm by members of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and International Law, which heard testimony yesterday from the Interagency Task Force for Vietnamese refugee relief.

Despite assertions by the task force's director, L. Dean Brown, that it was important for Congress to approve the full request, subcommittee chairman Joshua Eilberg (D-Pa.) said after the hearing that the administration was basing the request was "too indefinite" and that some lesser figure might be authorized.

In related developments:

- Former South Vietnamese Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky left Guam by Air Force transport for California.

- Former deputy prime minister Tran Van Don arrived at Ft. Chaffee, Ark., with a group of refugees, including several former government officials, to begin the resettlement process.

- At Camp Pendleton, Calif., where an estimated 10,400 refugees were being housed, the refugees established their own governmental structure with former Vietnamese Agricultural Development Bank chairman Khuong Huu Dieu as their spokesman.

- A survey by the United

Press International of more than 50 congressional offices found constituent mail running heavily against admitting refugees. UPI said the main concern was unemployment.

In an effort to ease this concern, Brown cabled the 50 state governors on Saturday assuring them that refugees will be dispersed and "economically hard-hit areas" will be avoided in the resettlement process.

Congress last week refused to approve an administration request of \$327 million for refugee aid because of language in the bill authorizing use of American forces. The administration has used foreign aid funds transferred under existing authority to pay the initial costs of evacuation and establishing refugee camps. These funds, about \$98 million, are almost depleted.

The administration now is seeking an additional \$507 million—\$99 million to pay the cost of the air and sea lifts to the staging camps and processing centers, \$185 million to sustain the refugees, \$78 million for resettlement costs, \$125 mil-

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lion for welfare costs and \$20 million to move refugees to other countries.

The administration's effort to estimate how much will be needed has been complicated in the last week by the rapid increase in the number of refugees. Brown said yesterday that more than 125,000 Vietnamese are now estimated to have fled and that the number may go as high as 150,000.

Because of this new, higher estimate, Brown said the administration was asking Congress' consent to amend a previous order by Attorney General Edward H. Levi permitting approximately 130,000 Vietnamese to enter the United States. The refugee ceiling would be raised to 150,000 "on a contingency basis." Additionally, Brown said the administration wanted to "liberalize the present limitation on categories" of refugees to allow more flexibility in admitting them.

Levi's order allows Vietnamese to qualify for immigration if they have been associated with American policy in Vietnam, which would make them targets for Communist reprisals, or if they are related to U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens here.

Brown said the United States intends "to press the international community to accept refugees and we have moved energetically to en-

S. Africans Get First Glimpse at TV

JOHANNESBURG, May 5 (AP)—Crowds flocked to electric-appliance stores today to glimpse the first test television broadcast in South Africa, one of the few industrialized countries still without television.

Government-controlled television is to go on the air Jan. 1, with a single channel broadcasting five hours a day in both English and Afrikaans.

list its cooperation." Although the administration estimated that 20,000 of the projected 150,000 refugees would resettle in other countries, Brown said he was "very disappointed" in the response from western European countries: "We won't get the large numbers we'd like to see them take."

To date, the administration has received a firm commitment from Canada to take 3,000 refugees. Brown referred in his testimony to "preliminary positive responses" from other countries, including some in French-speaking Africa, Latin America and Europe, but gave no figures.

Washington Post correspondent Bernard D. Nossiter reported from London that British officials have drawn tentative plans to admit fewer than 1,000 South Vietnamese refugees. In addition, the British Foreign Office has indicated that South Vietnamese diplomats and students already in England who want to stay will get a sympathetic response.

Although controversy continues over the Ford administration's decision to admit virtually all of the Vietnamese refugees if they want to come here, Brown sought to minimize the dislocation and disruption.

Brown estimated that about 30,000 jobs would be needed. "I think the majority of these people will fit in and will be productive citizens within a year or so," he told the subcommittee. A preliminary study, Brown said, showed that 70 percent of the refugee household heads speak English. The AFL-CIO has been "very helpful" in locating jobs, Brown said.

Because of relatively limited facilities on Guam—which can accommodate 45,000 refugees at one time—and the Philippine government's unwillingness to allow the United States to use its bases to hold refugees before they are brought here, Brown said some refugees will have to stay on ship "for a while, floating around Guam. It's going to be a little uncomfortable."