

Younger Will Greet Refugees

Sacramento

Attorney General Evelle J. Younger said yesterday that concern over Vietnamese refugees being a burden on the state is "absurd."

Younger, who just returned from an around-the-world trip that included 1½ weeks in Thailand and the Philippines, also announced he will visit Camp Pendleton today to apologize to the refugees for the hostility shown them by some Americans.

Asked about the refugees' possible negative impact on the state's economy, Younger declared: "That's absurd. In California we have 1½ million illegal aliens who create employment problems. To add to that some 25,000 legal aliens is a drop in the bucket."

"They won't be a burden. Many of them will enrich our society," added Younger, who visited military bases and talked with many refugees on his trip.

Although Younger did not point the finger specifically at Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., the Brown administration has been in the forefront of officials publicly questioning how much damage the influx of refugees would have on the state's economy.

Noting that no state officials had officially welcomed the refugees, Younger said he planned to visit Camp Pendleton "to correct the impression that the Vietnamese are not welcome. Someone from California should welcome them."

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