

Alioto's Plan for Housing Refugees

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Washington

Mayor Joseph Alioto yesterday offered the use of the closed Hassler Hospital west of Redwood City as an interim residence for South Vietnamese refugees.

"It's certainly better than them living in tents," Alioto told *The Chronicle*.

The mayor made the offer in a discussion with L. Dean Brown, the State Department official who heads the refugee relocation program for the federal government.

The 48-year-old hospital, situated on nearly 300 acres on Edgewood road, was closed by San Francisco in 1972 for budget reasons. At the time, it housed 161 aged

and chronically ill patients.

Since its closing, the city has been trying to sell the hospital, which carries an asking price of \$2 million. Alioto said the federal government could have it for a dollar a year.

Alioto said Brown thanked him for the offer and said federal officials will look into it.

Voters in San Carlos turned down a \$1.1 million bond issue to acquire the land in November. More recently, mental health officials in San Mateo county have organized a non-profit corporation to acquire Hassler and an adjacent former tuberculosis sanitorium.