

B of A sets up shop

at refugee camp

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CAMP PENDLETON — Some of the more than 18,000 Vietnamese refugees living in tent cities at this Marine base are converting U.S. currency to cashier's checks in amounts up to \$5,000. Others are seeking Welfare aid.

Some refugees have cashed checks received from friends and relatives in the United States, said Robert Pickrel, district administrator for the Bank of America.

Welfare applications by refugees in San Diego County, meanwhile, have brought protests.

Pickrel said military au-

thorities have allowed the bank to set up a mobile facility for the refugees. "We are using a mobile van that we used to cash Marine Corps checks for this operation," he said.

Currency has been exchanged for cashier's checks at the rate of \$15,000 a day, and while some conversions have been for \$5,000 or more, most have been for nominal amounts.

A total of 25,831 refugees, including 1,041 Cambodians, have entered the camp. Of those, 7,120 have been processed and have left.