

CARRIER ARRIVES IN GUAM BRINGING SAIGON AIRCRAFT

99 Planes and Copters Were
Flown Out as Foe Moved In
—Refugee Total Rises

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APRA HARBOR, Guam, Monday, May 12—The aircraft carrier Midway arrived today to unload a controversial cargo of 99 repossessed South Vietnamese military aircraft. Meanwhile, the curtailment of refugee flights to the United States continued.

The aircraft, worth several hundred million dollars and carrying more than 1,300 refugees, were flown out of South Vietnam in the dying hours of the Saigon Government.

Some helicopters landed on the Midway's four-acre flight deck. However, most of the planes were flown by fleeing South Vietnamese Air Force pilots to a United States air base in Thailand. There, Thai officials eager to seek accommodations with their new Communist neighbor promised to return the planes to the new government.

U.S. Reclaims Jets

The United States, however, cited a clause in its military assistance agreement and reclaimed the jets. Some of the planes, which included F-5's and A-37's, were towed 10 miles down back country roads to reach the waiting carrier. Most of the South Vietnamese tail markings have been obliterated. More aircraft reportedly remain in Thailand.

The Midway also brought to Guam 94 more refugees, who were rescued from a sinking fishing boat in the Gulf of Siam. That brought to 84,389 the number of refugees who have passed through here since the airlift from South Vietnam

began 19 days ago.

More than 37,000 refugees remained on Guam this morning as the island authorities braced for the imminent arrival of up to 20,000 more refugees on five chartered American merchant ships.

7,800 On Wake Island

An additional 7,800 South Vietnamese refugees were being processed on Wake Island and 2,500 in the Philippines; 1,200 are headed here aboard two South Vietnamese ships, and an unknown number are on ships that left Singapore for the Philippines.

That would put the total number of refugees from South Vietnam at more than 116,000.

Yesterday 5,000 refugees left here by plane. But most of them were being shifted to Wake to make more room in the crowded facilities here. Officials on Guam have been ordered to hold up transportation of refugees to the continental United States because the three refugee camps there—Camp Pendleton, Calif., Fort Chaffee, Ark., and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.—are said to be filled.

That order has caused considerable concern because it means that camps built here in

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a matter of hours and meant to be only temporary Spartan accommodations will now be used for weeks and months.

The already serious situation on Guam, where the island's population has grown by almost 40 per cent in three weeks, is complicated by overtaxed sanitary facilities and what is expected to be seasonally deteriorating weather. For instance, it rained here last night, leaving puddles and other wet spots that make ideal insect breeding places.

And yesterday afternoon Capt. Glenn Hamilton of the Fleet Weather Bureau here said that Guam's typhoon season had begun. He added that there was a 64 per cent chance of winds of more than 38 miles an hour at some point in the next three months.

Engineers have determined that winds of that velocity would begin destroying the more than 2,800 tents that house 27,000 persons at Orote Point, this island's largest refugee camp.

Adm. G. Stephen Morrison, the over-all commander of the refugee efforts here, said that seven refugees had died here since May 1 and not just three as previously stated. The cause of the deaths included dehydration, premature birth and an as yet undertermined type of fever.

For most refugees life has become a series of long waits—for food, for immigration clearance and for family members to arrive.

A Separated Family

Nguyen Thi Suoi of Vung Tau sat in her tent today quietly dabbing her red eyes with a handkerchief. Seven of her children crowded around her. But two others were with their father somewhere else.

On April 29 the family, which had fled from the Communists in North Vietnam in 1954, again ran away from their home. "Shells were falling everywhere," Mrs. Suoi said. "Many people were killed."

The family crowded on a fishing junk and sailed into the South China Sea in search of rescue. They waited two days, she said. Then her husband got seasick and boarded another craft to return to shore for a rest. A few hours later an American freighter took the junk's passengers aboard.

Now Mrs. Suoi sits on a dirty mattress amid thousands of other refugees and waits for her husband to walk down the dusty street.