

Security Check and Need for Sponsors Delaying

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WASHINGTON, May 14—Fewer than 10,000 Vietnamese refugees have been processed and released from the reception centers; the rest await sponsors and completion of security checks before they will be admitted into the United States.

Most of the 9,066 Vietnamese already starting to build new lives in this country are close relatives of American citizens or resident aliens, according to a spokesman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

In addition, the total includes a small number of Vietnamese without close relatives but with waiting sponsors. They were released pending the completion of the security check, a procedure that was tightened last week under Congressional pressure.

The immigration service announced today that security check would not be required for children under 17. It is estimated that 55 per cent of the 130,000 Vietnamese who fled their homeland are 18 years old or younger, and 28 per cent are under age 10. A service spokesman said that refugees who had been employed by the United States Government overseas would also be allowed to leave the reception centers, since they already had undergone security checks, so long as they have a sponsor or someone to vouch for them.

For the rest, however, home will be the barracks and tents of Camp Pendleton, Calif., Fort Chaffee, Ark., and Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., until they receive a completed negative security check — meaning that five agencies do not have their names on file. The security check, the spokesman said is similar to those of aliens seeking permanent residence in the United States.

Normally, he said, the process can take as long as a month. The service is trying to shorten this to about five days, the

spokesman said, and the first results, a batch of about 15,000, are expected to be returned to the service within the next few days.

"Once we start getting them back," he said, "they'll [the refugees] be able to move out quickly." Because of the high proportion of children among the refugees, it is believed that each adult or couple that is cleared will be accompanied by at least two or three children, the spokesman said.

Resettlement has been made the responsibility of seven voluntary agencies with long experience in this area. They will be reimbursed at the rate of \$600 for each refugee resettled, under aid legislation pending in Congress.

Offers of Sponsorship

The Interagency Task Force on Refugees, housed in the State Department's seventh-floor communications center and working round-the-clock shifts, today doubled its complement of 15 switchboard operators to handle incoming telephone calls. These calls include about 9,000 offers of sponsorship, which the agency then refers to one of the voluntary agencies.

The principal problem for the private agencies, according to Alton Kaspner, deputy director of the International Rescue Committee, is "trying to establish the legitimacy of the sponsor"—that is, to evaluate whether a would-be sponsor understands what the commitment, which is moral rather than legal, involves.

The sponsor's role, he said, is to "provide a stepping-stone toward self-sufficiency," but this can be a heavy responsibility for one individual or a single family. For this reason, he said, his agency prefers a "sponsor" to be a community group, or several families banded together to share the responsibility.

Members of the Government's interagency task force, which includes representatives of the Department of Health, Educa-

tion and Welfare, have estimated in Congressional testimony that the 130,000 refugees probably include "no more than 30,000 to 35,000 new entrants" into the job market, or heads of households. A survey at one of the reception centers, Camp Pendleton in Southern California, indicated that the great majority of the early refugees were trained in professions or business or had clerical skills.

It was also estimated that about one-half of the refugees would require some form of public assistance such as vocational or language training or health care, during the next two years, for an average period of nine months.

The United States approached about 100 other countries, a Congressional committee was told, on the subject of accepting Vietnamese refugees. Several countries, including African nations, indicated that they would accept small numbers. It is estimated that about 20,000 refugees—at their own request—will find new homes in another country, at a cost to the United States of about \$1,000 each.

One group of refugees for whom there appears to be no problem of finding sponsors is the physicians. Eleanor Green, a spokesman for the interagency task force, said there had been a large number of telephone calls from small communities that have been unable to attract a physician.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has two staff members at work on the problems of retraining and placing Vietnamese physicians here.

The delay in processing refugees, created in part by tightened security regulations, is

causing concern among those charged with trying to move the Vietnamese out of the reception centers and into American life.

For one thing, according to Miss Green, it is starting to rain now on Guam, where about 50,000 Vietnamese are being held until there is room in the reception centers here, and the typhoon season is about to begin.

Other Countries Sought

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GENEVA, May 14—Nearly 10,000 refugees who fled Cambodia and South Vietnam will be resettled in countries other than the United States, the

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Refugee Flow

Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration said today.

The 31-nation agency said that its teams at Guam, Hong Kong and in Thailand were registering refugees who had asked to resettle in 17 countries other than the United States.

France, Canada and Australia are the countries most sought by the refugees who do not ask to go to the United States, according to the committee.

Because of its 24 years of experience in assisting the movement of refugees and migrants in many parts of the world, the committee was asked to help in the Indochinese emergency by the United States.