

Refugees

Cleared for Stay in U.S.

Camp Pendleton.

About 3000 Vietnamese families headed by former U.S. employees got security clearances yesterday, the first step for them and their families to establish new lives in America.

Meanwhile, signup lists were put up for any refugee who wished to return to his homeland. No one signed immediately.

With an average of five persons in each family, the clearances probably mean about 15,000 of the 18,000 persons here can leave Pendleton once they get sponsors who will give them homes and jobs, an official said.

This could take days or weeks, said Bill Stubbs, civilian press spokesman for the Interagency Task Force here handling the refugees.

Some refugees have indicated privately that they were having second thoughts about leaving Vietnam.

They have said they were taking a "wait and see" attitude to see what life under the Communists will be like before deciding where they will permanently resettle. Some fear they won't like living in America.

Of the signup lists, Marine Lieutenant Colonel Arthur P. Brill said, "I have had no requests for this, but the government is not opposing it. It's part of the routine."

An international authority, probably the United Nations, will review any interested Vietnamese and arrange for his return, Brill said.

Associated Press