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Undesirable Refugees' Fate

FT. CHAFFEE, Ark., May 22 (UPI)—Immigration and Naturalization Service officials don't know what to do with Vietnamese refugees who fail to receive security clearances.

"We can't send them back to Vietnam against their will, but we're not going to parole (release from government control) them, either," INS Commissioner Leonard F. Chapman said Wednesday.

An aide to Chapman said seven of the first 20,000 Vietnamese refugees checked failed to receive clearance. No reasons were given why they failed to clear.

"There should be few in the first 50,000 that don't clear," Chapman said, adding that the Vietnamese who fled Saigon during the early stages of the evacuation were screened closely. And he said that he expected the number of undesirable to increase as checks were made on the refugees who fled Vietnam on their own, not under the auspices of U.S. officials.

U.S. immigration laws bar from entry convicted criminals, drug addicts, Communists and prostitutes, Chapman said.

INS probably will establish a weekly reporting system for refugees ruled "undesirable" to check in with once they are allowed to leave the refugee camps, Chapman said. The purpose of the reporting system would be to insure that the refugees are engaged in legitimate jobs, and not prostitution or crime, he said.

Judge Orders Study

On Status of 'Orphans'

Special to The Washington Post

SAN FRANCISCO, May 22

—A federal judge has ordered the Immigration and Naturalization Service to determine if the 2,000 Vietnamese children brought to this country are legitimate orphans.

The investigation could lead to the removal of some children from U.S. foster homes and their return to parents in Vietnam, according to a spokesman.

U.S. District Court Judge Spencer Williams ordered INS to warn agencies and prospective adoptive parents caring for the children that some of the youngsters may not be adoptable.

The order stemmed from a class-action suit seeking to stop adoptions until it could be determined whether any of the children had parents in Vietnam who had not signed papers releasing them. The suit was brought by the ad hoc Committee to Protect the Rights of Vietnamese Children.

The group produced witnesses who testified they had spoken to children who said they were not orphans, that identification bracelets had been switched or lost for some of the children, and that responsible agencies had not kept adequate records.

Neither the plaintiffs nor the defendants, which included the Justice, State and Defense departments, would estimate how many children brought here are not orphans as defined by federal law. Mort Cohen, attorney for the plaintiffs, said parents who have had adoption proceedings under way for more than a year probably will not lose their children.

Refugees Not Destitute, Money Dealer Says

NEW YORK, May 22 (AP)—Most Vietnamese refugee families at bases in Arkansas and Florida "are not destitute," says the head of a U.S. firm that is exchanging U.S. dollars and travelers' checks for unusual Southeast Asian gold and foreign currency.

Nicholas Deak of the banking group Deak, Perera & Co. said his firm was called in by the State Department and U.S. military officials when refugees began arriving on Guam early this month.

Because the Vietnamese were carrying unusual types of gold pieces and foreign currency, such as Thai baht, most local banks and savings and loan associations were unable to provide an exchange, he said.

"Our firm has several offices in Guam and we have several men from the Far East, so we were able to handle it. As far as I know, we are the only firm dealing with the refugees," Deak said.

Gold in Southeast Asia is weighed in taels, which are slightly heavier than the troy ounces standard throughout the Western world.

"These gold pieces often come in very, very thin sheets," said Deak. The refugees "hide them in shoes, in belts, in handkerchiefs, in bras—they pull them out from everywhere."

A one-tael gold piece generally comes in 2½ small sheets of gold, about the thickness of aluminum foil, that can be wrapped around the finger, he said. The value of such a piece is about \$179, compared with \$176 for a one-ounce gold piece.

"The refugees have also

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brought in French francs and Dutch guilders, which we also exchange. They also have, of course, South Vietnamese bank notes, which are practically worthless now. But we advise them to hold onto them," Deak said.

Deak said he did not know how many of the refugees had brought gold or currency with them, and he declined to estimate how much the average refugee carrying gold might have.

Deak's firm has set up mobile units at refugee camps in Arkansas and Florida and plans to set up another at Indiantown Gap, Pa., where refugees are expected to begin arriving Sunday, he said.