

# WXPPost MAY 25 1975 Educators Plan Adjustment

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Catholic University has announced it will offer tuition scholarships to 25 Vietnamese refugees if their living expenses can be met by other sources.

Catholic's offer reflects growing eagerness among educators to help the Vietnamese adjust to new lives and jobs in this country. Almost all of the proposals, though, entail at least partial public subsidies.

The refugee aid bill that President Ford signed yesterday could supply short-term support this summer for some projects. For example, Southeastern Oklahoma State University has offered English-language instruction, a course

in personal finances and other "survival skills," and vocational training for 200 refugees as soon as federal money is available.

California Supt. of Public Instruction Wilson C. Riles said he is mobilizing school districts in the San Diego area to teach English and survival skills to refugees at Camp Pendleton.

"All we need is a go-ahead and some money from the federal government," Riles said. The refugees at Camp Pendleton reportedly include 200 teachers, many of whom studied in the United States, and Riles hopes they will help instruct other refugees.

Riles said he has hired a for-

mer South Vietnamese vice minister of education, Do Ba Khe, as a consultant on Vietnamese education and "cultural dos and don'ts."

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities here has undertaken to collect and coordinate proposals from its 318 member institutions for refugee orientation, education, temporary housing and other assistance.

Among other educational institutions, predominantly black Grambling State University in Louisiana has said it could accommodate 200 refugee students in its classrooms and dormitories and could use two Vietnamese doctors in its infirmary.

"We are ready to proceed," said Grambling President Ralph W. E. Jones, assuming federal funding would be available. The university is looking into housing and jobs for refugees in its community.

Catholic University said Vietnamese applicants for its scholarships would have to meet admission requirements, though some special tutoring could be provided. The scholarships would cover partial or full tuition and would be renewable.

Administrators said the university would need government or private funds to meet the refugee students' other expenses, such as room and board.

## Courses for Indochina Refugees

While such requirements as English-language instruction get top priority, Health, Education, and Welfare Department planners have started reviewing federal programs to see what long-term educational aid could be offered to the refugees.

The planners have been hampered by lack of solid statistics on the ages, education and needs of the possibly 130,000 refugees who will settle in the United States. It isn't clear, for example, how many refugees will need instruction in English.

A sampling of the refugees at Camp Pendleton last week projected that 38 per cent

were 1 to 15 years old and 23 per cent were 16 to 25.

Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.) foresees a substantial financial burden for public school districts that must educate refugee children with special language and cultural needs.

Cranston said that if 11,000 refugees settled in California and if half of the refugees were school-age children, the state could pay close to \$8 million next year to educate them.

While welcoming the refugees, Cranston said he wanted to make sure HEW reimburses school districts for the extra educational cost. He said he would introduce legislation for that purpose, if necessary.

Vietnamese adults also will require programs to adapt their skills or to learn new ones. Lawyers, doctors, teachers, pharmacists and other professionals may need extensive study to qualify for U.S. practice.

Another problem involves the fate of 2,500 Vietnamese and Cambodian students enrolled at U.S. institutions when their governments fell. Many who were getting money from home now may have to support family members arriving as refugees.

Nguyen Hai Thanh, a junior at Southern Illinois University said he wanted to help two younger brothers who are refugees. Thanh said he

thought he could help them more in the long run if he earned his college degree but he said he didn't know if he could afford to continue his studies with aid from his father cut off.

Rep. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) introduced a bill that would provide federal grants for these students but other lawmakers oppose special treatment when aid for American students is less generous.

Another possibility would make "stranded" students eligible for the same aid available to American students.

Riles in California has another idea: hiring these students to help educate refugees.