

Viet 'Art Treasure' Mystery on Guam

Tokyo

South Vietnam has demanded that the United States return a cargo of valuable Vietnamese art treasures taken to Guam, a Hanoi broadcast reported yesterday.

The Vietnam News Agency in a broadcast monitored in Tokyo, quoted a South Vietnamese Foreign Ministry statement as saying: "The cargo contained objects from the Vietnam national archives in Saigon or from the . . . imperial palace in Hue worth an estimated \$150 million."

The statement said the South Vietnamese art treasures are "the property of the South Vietnamese people and must be returned to

their rightful owners," the news agency reported.

Officials on Guam said Saturday they found a secret cargo of Vietnamese art treasures and antiques aboard a refugee ship quarantined in the harbor off Guam.

The refugees who arrived on the vessel May 15 left the ship before the treasures were found.

The items in crates are addressed to a private party in Montreal, Canada.

Ed Gould, press secretary to Guam Governor Ricardo Bordallo, said the government is trying to ascertain whether the items actually are personal possessions and if so where they can be unloaded.

Gould said the ship's own-

er told customs agents that the crates belonged to a South Vietnamese pharmacist who wanted them delivered to Hing Kong. The ship never stopped there.

In Montreal, a Vietnamese

refugee who identified herself as Dao Diep Khahn, the name appearing on the crates, said as far as she knew "there are only some personal belongings, a few paintings and small furnish-

ings" in the crates. "This has got to be some sort of joke," she said.

She said the Montreal address on the crates was that of her father, Dao Van Nien.

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