

# Saigon Asks U. N. To Help Refugees Wishing to Return

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UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 27 — A formal request to the United Nations for assistance in repatriating South Vietnamese refugees wishing to return home has been made by the new Government in Saigon.

United Nations officials said today that the Saigon authorities had made their request in the past few days to Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the United Nations' High Commissioner High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva where the Provision Revolutionary Government has a liaison office for contacts with the United Nations' assistance agencies.

At least 700 Vietnamese now living in temporary refugee facilities on Guam and another 100 or more who are in camps in the United States, have requested repatriation.

This estimate was made in Washington last week but there since have been reports reaching here that as many as 3,000 on Guam now wish to return home.

The High Commissioner's office last week confirmed that talks were going on about repatriation with the South Vietnamese, but today's announcement was the first official acknowledgment that Saigon had formalized its assurances given earlier that those willing to return would be welcome.

Prince Sadruddin said that the Saigon Government's acceptance of the refugees was the "first and most important step" to resolving the problem and remarked that past experience had demonstrated that voluntary repatriation "can be the happiest of solutions, though it is seldom the easiest." He said that the operation would likely begin slowly and gain momentum as it progressed.

These remarks suggested that he was rebutting criticisms made in Washington last week that the United Nations had not acted more speedily on the requests and that Saigon was obstructing repatriation.