

Many Refugees Fearful of Resettlement

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EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla., June 2 (UPI) — Some 1,200 Vietnamese refugees have refused to leave a refugee camp here because they fear life outside the tent compound or their families are still separated, officials reported today.

"We're afraid to take the final step," explained one refugee who asked not to be identified. "We're afraid something will go wrong."

"We don't really know our sponsors," he said, "and we don't know whether they will really be responsible for us. We don't know whether they will really help us for months, or even years if necessary."

Les Gottlieb, deputy chief of the sprawling tent camp built on the edge of a pine forest, said there was some basis for the refugees' fears.

There have been three cases in recent weeks of refugees leaving the camp, only to return several days later saying they did not like their sponsors or were not ready to face the outside world.

The latest figures show that 2,148 of the 5,629 refugees who have arrived at Eglin have the necessary sponsors and security checks to leave camp, but only 961 have departed.

Processing for Return

FORT CHAFFEE, Ark., June 2 (UPI)—Processing has begun at the camp here for those refugees who want to return to Vietnam, Maj. Arne Anderson, an Army spokesman, said Monday.

He said there were 199 who wanted to return, adding, "They are being counseled as a group and as individuals."

The refugees first fill out forms with the help of Red Cross representatives. The forms are forwarded to the United Nations Refugee Command and then on to the Saigon Government for approval.

Cambodians Stranded

NEWPORT, R. I., June 2 (UPI) — Offers of jobs and places to live are being handled delicately for 20 Cambodian naval officers stranded here last month when their Government fell.

"Most indicate they would certainly like to go back if they are allowed. The students are not receiving any information from home or their families. They don't know what's happening. They're saying 'Gee, I'd like to go back but . . .'" Lieut. Joseph Conway said.