

SFChronicle  
JUN 9 1975  
**U.S. Refugee  
Plan Called  
'Nightmare'**

Washington.

The Ford administration's program of processing and resettling the 131,000 South Vietnamese refugees under American control has become a "shambles," Senate investigators said yesterday.

"What should have been an orderly, expeditious and relatively straightforward procedure for processing Indochina refugees has turned into a nightmare for officials and refugees alike," investigators for the Senate Subcommittee on Refugees said in a report to the panel chairman, Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.).

The investigators said there are indications that at the current rate it may take more than a year to empty refugee camps.

They said the backlog of refugees still on Guam awaiting transport to the United States is posing potential health problems and fears for the refugees during the approaching typhoon season.

The processing of the refugees, the report said, "came to a virtual standstill during the month of May and is still stuck in a mire of clearances."

As of the first week of June, 102,314 refugees — or 80 per cent of the 131,000 who came under American control remained in camps to be processed and resettled, the report said.

A slight improvement occurred during that week and refugees began moving out of the camps at a rate of 600 to 650 a day. It would still take a minimum of six months to clear the camps if processing continued at that pace, the report said.

"More likely, significant numbers of refugees will be remaining in camps for a longer period of time—in fact some officials estimate that the time frame may be up to a year or more," the report said.

The report said President Ford's plan to evacuate an unspecified number of South Vietnamese "seems to have been less of a plan than it was a vague intention, barely stated."

Whatever plan existed was

*Back Page Col. 5*

From Page 1

implemented badly, plagued with disorganization, and undertaken with little control, it said.

Nearly half of the Vietnamese who eventually came under U.S. control represented parts of the population the United States never intended to evacuate, including farmers, small shopkeepers, street vendors, soldiers, and in one case, an entire fishing village, it said.

The report had general praise for the military services' part of the operation but said the civilian refugee resistance force is responsible for a processing backlog that begins in the "temporary" refugee camps on Guam and is evident also in

---

**More refugee news  
on Pages 12 and 13**

---

an apparent lack of cooperation with American civilian relief organizations trying to resettle refugees in the United States.

"There is no clearer evidence of this today than the shambles which the refugee processing and resettlement program has become — with a backlog of refugees which threatens the humane resettlement of people in the shortest period of time," the report said.

On Guam, it said this has resulted in a bottleneck for 40,000 refugees held 20 or more to tents which are beginning to show signs of heavy use and weather.

In the main, a sloppy, laissez faire approach characterizes the President's refugee program and the question of who is in charge arises in the minds of many Americans concerned over our special obligation to the refugees and their welfare and resettlement in the United States, the report said.

*Associated Press*