

# 11 REFUGEES BALK AT SHARECROPPING

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Are Taken to Florida Hotel  
After 12 Days of Fear

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—A new life in America for 11 Vietnamese refugees began with their being stranded in a sweltering two-bedroom mobile home without electricity, running water or plumbing. It was situated in the middle of an isolated orange grove. Among the refugees was a 23-day-old baby.

Their sronsor, Mary Kenny, said she gave the refugees a .22-caliber rifle when they arrived and told them to shoot at intruders. She said that hardship was part of the American pioneer spirit.

"In Vietnam I was never afraid in the war," said Nguyen Phuc Bao Duc, a former Vietnamese Army lieutenant colonel who lost his left leg and left arm in the war. "But here I am very afraid all the time."

"I stay here 12 days. Now I want to go back to Eglin Air Force Base refugee camp. If we know the way, we walk to the airport," he said.

The refugees, members of two families, were moved to an Orlando hotel last night after the Orlando Sentinel Star and the Red Cross learned of their plight.

Mrs. Kenyy Kenny told the The Sentinel she had hoped the refugees, all Saigon urban dwellers, would share-crop hay and oranges on the 20-acre site near Ocoee, about 11 miles west of Orlando. Their rent would be \$166 a month.

## Volunteer Agencies Blamed

Mrs. Kenny called the affair "a big mistake" and agreed the refugee should return to Eglin. She attributed the problem to volunteer agencies at Eglin and a tenant who refused to move out of a trailer so that one of the refugee families could move in.

The tenant, J. R. Blatchford, 67 years old, denied that he had been asked to leave and said he had been hired as a "kind of watchman for the place."

Mr. Duc, aa his wife, a 6-year old daughter and 55-yearold aunt arrived at the trailer May 31. The next night, Nguyen Hong Giap, 48, his wife, their two young children and his 62-year-old mother-in-law, his sister-in-law and her baby, born at Eglin, arrived at the orange grove.