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30% of the 131,399 Who Fled Indochina Are Settled in U.S.

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WASHINGTON, June 23—Julia Vadala Taft, director of the Ford Administration's Task Force in on Indochina Refugees, said today that 30 per cent of the 131,399 Cambodians and Vietnamese had been settled in this country since April.

Speaking at a news conference after the issuance of reports to Congress on the status of the Administration's refugee program, Mrs. Taft said that if the operation continued apace the relocation camps in the United States and in the Western Pacific could be emptied by late fall.

At present, the Indochina refugees are being released to settle in American communities at a rate of 700 a day.

To date, 40,655 refugees have been resettled since the fall of Cambodia and South Vietnam to Communist forces. Mrs. Taft said that 3,962 of these had been sent to other countries at their request.

Mrs. Taft said that she had received indications that France might accept a total of 15,000 of the latest group of Cambodian and Vietnamese refugees—bringing the total going to other countries close to the original administration estimate of 20,000.

In addition, 2,031 have asked for repatriation to Vietnam or Cambodia. They are being assembled at camp Pendleton, Calif., for this purpose.

This leaves 27,072 in tent camps in the Western Pacific and 61,320 in four reception centers in the United States. Mrs. Taft said that starting tomorrow the more than 10,000 refugees on Guam would be under roofs or, as she called them, "fixed facilities."

There is still some difficulty in acquiring an adequate number of sponsors for the Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees in this country, she said.

"We're sure going to have problems," she said. But improvements in cooperation between her interagency task force and the voluntary agencies that are handling the resettlements made her confident, she said, that this bottleneck would be eliminated.