

Relocation Plan For Montagnards

Camp Pendleton

Montagnard tribesmen from Indochina, thrust into the modern world by defeat in a war they scarcely understood, will be resettled in western Washington, officials here say.

"Their knowledge of the outside world is so little that for sheer survival they must remain together," Nick Thorne, director of the refugee program at this Marine Corps relocation center, says.

Thorne said the Montagnards will be placed in villages of their own in western Washington, where the

altitude and climate most nearly match that of their lost homes on the Laos-Vietnam border.

Washington state officials said they knew of no such plan.

Tom Pryor, head of the Washington state Office of Emergency Services which administers the state's Vietnamese refugee program, expressed surprise.

"I'm overwhelmed," Pryor said. "I believe they (Camp Pendleton officials) would be well advised to contact us about it so we could listen to the proposal and then say 'yea' or 'nay.'"

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