

## REFUGEES LEAVE SUBIC BAY CENTER

Flights to Guam Resume—  
Evacuation Operation Is  
Ending After 2 Months

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MANILA, July 1—Flights to Guam from Subic's Cubi Point runway have resumed, with 450 refugees a day, being carried, a public affairs officer, Comdr. Erv Sharp, said today.

About 900 Vietnamese remain on the small island at the mouth of Subic Bay that has served as an evacuation center the last two months.

"If no hitches develop and the daily refugee flights continue, we will wind up this operation in about five days," Commander Sharp said.

There was no word from the Philippine Government or United States Embassy sources on whether the 76 Vietnamese who arrived last week at the coastal town of Lian, Batangas, would be allowed to proceed to the United States naval base.

A statement from the provincial government of Batangas said that the refugees who arrived in a lone fishing boat after weeks on the high seas had indicated the United States as their first choice of refuge and the Philippines as the second. They are temporarily being housed and fed by the Government and civic groups of Batangas.

### 30 Others in Doubt

Also unsettled is the fate of 30 Vietnamese now living in cramped quarters at a Manila orphanage. They arrived May 1 aboard a Philippine Navy ship along with 1,150 Vietnamese dependents of Filipinos who had served in Vietnam. The latter have been accepted for permanent residence by the Philippine Government.

Interviewed at the orphanage today, Prof. Jean Ticarro, 29 years old, formerly of the economics department of The National University in Phnom Penh, said that he and his family would like very much to be accepted in the United States.

He told of a harassed evacua-

tion that began last December when he and other Vietnamese in Cambodia were flown back to Saigon by the United States government. Four months later, they were running again. "We boarded the first available ship in great confusion," he said.

The departure of the last evacuees from the Subic base will end an unusual operation that has stretched through seven weeks. It involved turning over the islet, which was the base recreational facility, to the refugees, building tents to house the overflow from the few buildings here, giving immunization shots, purchasing sacks full of Philippine rice and gallons of a salty fish sauce called "patis," which the Vietnamese found necessary for simulating Viet cooking.

With the help of responsible refugees and Viet-speaking United States servicemen, the evacuation camp was organized into committees in cacacacm religious, educational, sanitation and public safety activities.

"The opportunity to participate and do their own work helped many refugees who were very distraught," said Capt W. H. Darrow, civil affairs officer here.

It was difficult for a recent visitor to tell the peasants from the professionals as all rested under the trees during the noonday lull. Their children, now equally clothed, with donated garments, betrayed no distinctions of background.

However, a United States consular officer, Raymond Bailey, who participated in the first screening of these refugees, described them in an interview in Manila. He also recalled his observations with the refugees from Hungary and Cuba in the nineteen-fifties.

"The Hungarians, and also the Cubans, were highly educated, the cream of their societies. The Vietnamese flown out in the orderly evacuation before Saigon was overrun were comparable. But the panic after that changed the ratio," Mr. Bailey said.

While agreeing that some groups of Viet evacuees he had seen here would be difficult to integrate into American society, Mr. Bailey was hopeful that no one would be repatriated or turned away. "Our society was built by immigrants, and the tradition for helping refugees is well-entrenched," he added.

Merle Arp, chief of the visa branch of the United States consular office in Manila, said he was confident that the processing of refugees would continue till the last from the Guam and Philippine bases had been given a chance.

He expressed some regret that other countries, especially Asian allies of the United States, had not helped absorb this outflow. Only a few hundred were accepted by Taiwan, Australia and the Philippines, most of them dependents of their own nationals.

Under present law, Mr. Arp said, Vietnamese refugees are being considered for admission as permanent residents under the preference that specifies "conditional entry to refugees from the Asian region not to exceed 10,000 yearly." It would thus take more than 10 years for all the Vietnamese to be finally accepted.