

Refugee Repatriation Seen

By Stan Crock

Washington Post Staff Writer

Officials handling the settlement of Vietnamese refugees in the United States told a congressional subcommittee yesterday that they expect a breakthrough shortly in negotiations with the South Vietnamese government over refugees who wish to return to their homeland. Officials also said they expected the settlement program to be finished by the end of the year.

Prior to their testimony before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship and International aid, chairman Joshua Eilberg (D-Pa.) called for the resignation of Gaetana Enders from the President's Advisory Committee on Refugees.

Citing an article in Tuesday's Washington Post, Eilberg said he was "distressed to hear reports" that Mrs. Enders has "adopted a paternalistic approach" to the refugees and "has displayed an elitist attitude with regard to her work with these refugees."

The refugees should be treated with dignity, he said, adding that the resettlement is "serious business" and the advisory committee "was not designed to provide a part-time hobby or self-glorification vehicle for bored wives of State Department officials."

Mrs. Enders' husband, Thomas O. Enders, is an assistant secretary of state for economic and business affairs.

Reached at home, Mrs. Enders said, "For the moment, I have no comment."

James M. Wilson Jr., coordinator of humanitarian affairs for the State Department, told the subcommittee that the office of the United Nations high commissioner for refugees has been in contact with Saigon about repatriation and anticipates "a breakthrough in this logjam very soon."

No contact has been made with the Cambodian government, however, he said, and



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Julia Vadala Taft, director of the inter-agency task force, appears for testimony before a hearing on refugee settlement before a House Judiciary subcommittee.

refugees who intend to return there are "not likely to go back soon."

A total of 2,425 refugees are seeking repatriation, according to statistics of the Interagency Task Force for Indochina, the organization in charge of settling the refugees.

The task force has set up a repatriation center in Guam in the interim and has promised to pay transportation for

those who want to return to Indochina.

Task force Director Julia Vadalo Taft testified that a target date of the end of December has been set for the closing of the four U.S. mainland refugee camps and the completion of the program. A firm date will be set within two weeks, she said.

More than 56,000 of the 131,000 refugees have left the

camps, she testified. Those re- out at the rate of 700 a day, she said.

In 5½ hours of testimony, the officials defended the program against allegations that the system is breaking down.

Mrs. Taft acknowledged that there have been problems because of the number of people involved and the speed with which they came here. Almost all of them fled the Communist takeover of their country and reached Guam in the last two weeks of April.

One problem has been a lack of supervision of voluntary agencies under contract with the task force to settle refugees, she said. The num-

ber of groups that have offered to be sponsors has increased while the number of individuals has decreased, Mrs. Taft said.

She said she approved of this new ratio because groups which split the responsibility for taking care of refugee families may be able to handle the task better than individual families can.

Eilberg said after the hearing that the testimony raised many questions for which he received insufficient answers. He said he was displeased by the absence of a system to determine how the refugees are faring after they have been settled.