

REFUGEE PROGRAM IS BEING EXPANDED

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Will Include 5,000 Laotians
Who Fled Communists

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WASHINGTON, July 18 (AP)

—The United States resettlement program for Asian refugees, is being expanded to include Laotians and an additional 77,000 to 9,000 Cambodians and Vietnamese.

Current plans call for the admission of up to 5,000 Laotians who fled to Thailand after their Government fell under Communist domination in recent weeks. The added Cambodians and Vietnamese are those who have fled to Thailand and other countries after Communist Governments were installed in Saigon and Phnom Penh last April.

Previously, the American refugee program had accepted only those Vietnamese and Cambodians who fled in the last days before their countries fell.

It was also disclosed yesterday that an estimated 10,000 former Cambodian and Vietnamese soldiers may join the American military services, and that the choice of a new refugee resettlement camp equipped for winter use has narrowed to Fort Walters, Tex., and Fort Holabird, Md.

The plan to expand the refugee program was made public by Joshua Eilberg, Democrat of Pennsylvania, who is chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration. At a subcommittee hearing, Thursday, Julia Vadala Taft, the director of the Government's

refugee program, said fewer refugees than expected were attempting to come to the United States from third countries.

As a result, the two new categories will not result in an increase in the 130,000 refugees eventually expected to settle in the United States, she said. No refugees who left Cambodia or Vietnam after July 1 will be admitted under the program.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that the Pentagon is working on plans to permit about 10,000 Vietnamese and Cambodians refugees to enlist in United States military services.

Officials said legislation will be proposed to waive a requirement that aliens must live in the United States for two years before they are permitted to sign up for military duty.

So far, 52,734 refugees have been placed with sponsors in the United States, with another 59,526 still in camps.

Refugees Demonstrate

Fort Chaffee, Ark., July 18 (UPI)—Two hundred Indochina refugees demonstrated yesterday in front of the United States Catholic Conference to protest that group's refusal to resettle 650 Vietnamese fishermen all together in Louisiana. Later another group of 200 refugees held a counterdemonstration.

The first group is made up mostly of the fishermen who wanted to resettle together in Louisiana. But George Gost, the deputy civil coordinator, said it was unreasonable for such large a group to demand resettlement in one area.

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