

# Educational Level of Vietnamese Refugees

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## Camp Pendleton

The frequently expressed fears of many officials and others dealing with the South Vietnamese refugee program — that thousands of those who fled as Saigon fell to the Communists would be illiterate people for whom resettlement would be difficult — appear to have been unfounded.

The first sociological studies by the President's interagency task force on Indochina refugees showed that the Vietnamese group was mostly affluent, educated and from middle-class backgrounds. Large numbers of them also speak English.

One computer study of the records of 52,951 refugees showed that almost 90 per cent of the 10,039 who classified themselves as heads of households had a high school, college or post-graduate education. In fact, 33 per cent reported they had done university or post-graduate work.

The survey found that 31 per cent of the heads of households had professional, technical or managerial skills. Of the remainder, 13 per cent were in clerical or sales work; 12.3 per cent in service industries; 10.9 in farming, fishing, forestry and related industries; .03 per cent in agricultural processing; 1.2 per cent, machine trades; 1.5, benchwork, assembly and repairs; 1.9 per cent, structural and construction; and 26 per cent, transportation and miscellaneous. Five per cent did not indicate their occupation.

*New York Times*