

SECURITY CHECKS ENDING IN CAMPS

Only 57 Refugees Held Up
for Further Inquiries

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CAMP PENDLETON, Calif., July 25—With security checks completed on all but a handful of the Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees who have arrived at four military bases in this country, only 57 are being held up for further investigation, the Immigration and Naturalization Service said today.

Thirty of those on whom inquiries are still being made are at this southern California Marine base, 16 at Fort Chaffee, Ark., and 11 at Indiantown Gap, Pa. No cases are reported pending at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

Among those delayed for checks, 35 are said to be considered possibly serious cases.

"The 35 would be the ones we have possible serious information on," said Janet Graham, an I.N.S. spokesman in Washington. "Grounds that they could possibly be excluded on."

26 Said to Be Serious

Twenty-six cases here were said to be serious. Nine involve allegations of criminal activities; six narcotics use or trafficking and 11 subversion.

Of the more than 116,000 refugees who have passed through or are still at the furcamps, Miss Graham said, only 128 remain to be processed, including the 57 delayed for further investigation. The 9,800 remaining at such Pacific bases as Guam and Wake will not receive their final security checks until they arrive in this country.

Miss Graham said the investigations, which were required by Congress under the Refugee Assistance Act, so far had turned up only 327 cases that could potentially have prevented the person's parole into the United States. Of these, she said, 270 have been cleared up, and in no case have the charges been definitely sustained yet.

"However, there is one who has requested repatriation," she said.

Earlier, the delays in processing caused by the security checks had come in for widespread criticism, but Miss Graham said with some apparent relief:

"We've really pretty much cleared this up, and I think fairly rapidly, considering the numbers."

The checks were basically negative ones, under which the Immigration and Naturalization Service sent the names of all refugees 18 years and older to five Federal agencies to determine if they had any derogatory information on file about them. The agencies are the Defense Department, State Department, Central Intelligence Agency, Drug Enforcement Agency and, in the case of persons who had been in the United States before, the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Files Brought Back

An I.N.S. official said the State Department had brought back files from Saigon on thousands of Vietnamese. But he denied reports that any South Vietnamese police files had been brought to this country and were being used in the investigations.

If negative information was found in any of the agencies' files, the refugee was held up for further investigation. However, officials insist, such refugees have not been separated or treated differently from any others in the camps.

"The majority of those we've had we've been able to clear ourselves by interviews with the refugees," an I.N.S. official in Washington said. "In a lot of cases, we've found the allegations just don't hold water."

If parole is denied to a refugee, the official said, he would be advised to get in touch with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to try to find a third country to accept him, or to apply for repatriation.

Officials have declined to name any of the people held up for further security checks, or any who have been investigated and cleared.

"To point a guy out, that would be a stigma," explained Don Day, field officer in charge of the I.N.S. operation here. "I am not too happy about the security-check thing. We've had 144 'possibles.' I don't call them security risks. A security problem is not really a big thing. I consider it minimal, when you're talking about 130,000 people."