

# Public Aid for Viet Refugees

## Sacramento

Now 41 per cent of the Vietnamese refugees who have settled in California are receiving some form of public assistance, Health and Welfare Secretary Mario Obledo said yesterday.

Obledo called a press conference to say that 15,700 refugees have left camps and are living in California. Of that number, he claimed, nearly 6500 are receiving "some kind of assistance."

Last month, Obledo said the number of refugees on welfare, either directly or through Medi-Cal or food stamps, was 2500.

Direct welfare costs for the refugees are being paid by the federal government, but Obledo was still critical of the U.S. handling of war refugees.

*United Press*