

100,000 Indochina Refugees Resettled; 34,992 Are Still at Three Camps in U.S.

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 18 — Resettlement of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees who fled their homelands last spring passed the 100,000 mark this week, the Ford Administration announced today.

Julia Vadala Taft, director of the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees, said at a news conference that she expected the resettlement program to be concluded by mid-December.

She said that 34,992 refugees were still quartered at Fort Chaffee, Ark.; Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. She estimated that 5,000 more Indochinese refugees in Laos and Thailand were eligible for resettlement in this country and would be brought into the program in the next three months.

Of the 100,000 already resettled, 94,000 have found homes in the United States, and 6,000 have gone to other countries, principally Canada and France.

Mrs. Taft said that the rapid pace of resettlement in this country had been made possible by the quick response to appeals for sponsorships of individual refugees. "This reflects very favorably on the generosity of the American people," she said.

Agencies Help Out

Individual sponsorships have trailed off recently, she added, but the slack has been taken up by voluntary agencies and civic organizations.

For example, the family of 10 that brought the resettlement program to the 100,000 mark is being sponsored by four Lutheran churches in Racine, Wis. The head of the

family is Pham Phu Quoc, a former officer in the South Vietnam Army. The family left Fort Chaffee for Wisconsin this morning.

Mrs. Taft said that only 11,000 refugees now require financial assistance. About 45,000 of the refugees have got, or are about to get jobs.

Some of the refugees who have been settled in small communities are lonely, Mrs. Taft said, and 1,800 have reported problems with their sponsors. However, she added, "We've had very few bad morale problems."

Of those remaining in the refugee camps, most are either members of very large families or are single men, she said, and some have indicated that they would rather stay in the camps than face the uncertainties of life outside.

Mrs. Taft said that her greatest concern was for 1,800 Vietnamese, most of them on Guam and the rest at Camp Pendleton, who demand to be repatriated to Vietnam. The Communist authorities in Saigon and Hanoi have refused them entry.

Hopes to See U.N. Aide

Mrs. Taft said that she hoped to confer soon with Aga Sadruddin Khan, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, about the repatriation problem at Guam. Prince Sadruddin is scheduled to meet Government officials in Hanoi this week.

The refugee resettlement program has cost far less than the estimates of the Administration, Mrs. Taft said.

Of the \$505-million available for evacuation of the refugees from Indochina and their resettlement, the Administration has spent or obligated \$283-million. About \$133-million is thus avail-

able for the remaining resettlements, and about \$87-million for disbursement by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in follow-up education and support assistance programs.

Asked to assess the attitude of the nation toward the Indochina refugees, Mrs. Taft said that while there was widespread hostility at first, "I believe this has completely reversed."

She said that completion of the resettlement program would probably find 130,000 Vietnamese and Cambodians accepted in this country, in compliance with the stipulations of Congress. Those in excess of this number will either go on to other countries or seek repatriation, she said.

Agency Is Accused of Bias In Adoption of Cambodians

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 18 (AP) — A Roman Catholic man and a Jewish woman testified yesterday that an adoption agency refused to let them adopt Cambodian children in "Operation Babylift" because they were not evangelical Protestants.

Ted Cona of Santa Ana and Carol Ann Gold of Canoga Park were among 10 witnesses called in the Superior Court trial of Family Ministries, a state-licensed adoption agency based in Whittier.

Dr. Richard Scott of Los Angeles filed the suit against the agency, accusing it of discrimination in placing the Cambodians brought to the United States at taxpayers' expense.

Both Mr. Cona and Mrs. Gold supported Dr. Scott's contention that Family Ministries required prospective parents to sign a "statement of faith."