

Bay Viet Refugee Program Out of Money

A privately financed job training program for 90 Vietnam refugees from Camp Pendleton ran out of funds yesterday in Oakland, with the training program scarcely started.

"We can't send them back to

Camp Pendleton — once they're out, the government won't take them back," said John Whalen, lawyer for the local nonprofit contractor whose \$40,000 grant was expiring.

"So, today, we're asking

Alameda county welfare to put them on the rolls.

"With 128,000 Southeast Asia refugees now moved out of the camps, I'm positive there are hundreds of situations like this around the country."

Whalen said the 90 Vietnamese left Camp Pendleton six weeks ago as the result of a deal worked out by the State Department's Task Force on Vietnam Refugees. Funds were supplied by New York's Tolstoy Foundation and Know-how by the Bay Area Maintenance Service Council (BAMSC), a nonprofit outfit headed by James Wright, which in the past has trained and placed minorities in jobs.

The Vietnamese were lodged in 21 apartments in a building at 1757 26th avenue, Oakland.

The refugee training program, Whelan said, was managed by two men, G. E. Molander and Erwin Pardue, who have lately left the program after dissatisfaction with its progress developed.

"We were supposed to be getting 60 bachelors fluent in English, ready for training," Whelan said.

Instead, it turned out some of

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the bachelors had wives and lots of children — creating room and board problems — and none had any great command of English.

BAMC subtlet the actual training program to Urban Security Services of San Francisco, whose representative, Gordon Jacobson, has had his hands full.

"I was supposed to be a small part of an operation," Jacobson said, while peeling off the final week's living allotment of \$25.20 to each of his charges. "But I've wound up being the whole operation."

"I try to communicate with them in classes in the courtyard, but it isn't easy."

"I try to get these living allotments to them on time, but Mr. Molander told me there were delays.

"I hate shopping of any kind, but I go shopping with them.

"I'm not a social worker, but they need bedding and mattresses and clothes — small-size clothes — and I've been appealing to the Salvation Army and anyone I can think of for help.

Jacobson said his qualification is in teaching people to become security guards, and he would like to find a way to get back to that specialty with his newfound Vietnamese friends.

The Viet namese friends — former Army officers in their 20s and 30s — showed no signs of suffering from the obvious disorganization of the program, and its consequent boredom.

Banter, smiles, and socializing abounded in the halls, on the steps and in the courtyard.

And much interest was shown in a visit to r from Hayward, Mrs.

Donald Delaney, who has a Vietnam refugee family as her guests at home.

"I bought \$260 worth of groceries for these people to keep them from starving, when their last living allotments were late," she said. She expressed lack of confidence in Jacobson's ability to handle things — but so did Jacobson.

"Any help is appreciated," he said.

The Alameda county welfare department's representatives are scheduled to visit the refugees' apartment house today. Lawyer Whelan said he will try to invoke special refugee legislation to speed the group's transfer to public responsibility.