

U.S. Expects More Indochina Refugees

By DAVID BINDER

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 15— From 2,000 to 3,000 more Indochinese refugees are expected to arrive in the United States in the next two weeks, bringing the total destined for resettlement here to about 134,000 by Christmas, Administration officials said today.

Also, for the first time since the American resettlement program began last April, shortly before the fall of South Vietnam and Cambodia to Communist insurgents, some of the refugee traffic will be in the other direction.

Mrs. Julia Vadala Taft, director of the interagency task force on Indochina refugees, said that about 1,600 South Vietnamese quartered on Guam for the last six months were preparing to hop out for Saigon aboard a cargo ship.

Most of these Vietnamese have been seeking repatriation ever since they were brought out of Vietnam, the bulk of them against their will, Mrs. Taft said.

U.N. Efforts Fail

Efforts of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees to persuade the authorities in Hanoi and Saigon to accept repatriates were to no avail, she noted, and so the Ford Administration decided to allow them to return on their own.

They will be sailing aboard the *Truong Tin 1*, a South Vietnamese freighter that car-

ried evacuees to Guam last spring despite denunciation of the voyage by the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry and the Provisional Revolutionary Government in Saigon.

Mrs. Taft said in an interview that the would-be repatriates had been scrupulously screened "to make sure that none were being coerced into returning to Vietnam." She also said that none had been associated with the Central Intelligence Agency at any time.

Some in Thailand

Of the continuing flow of refugees to the United States, Mrs. Taft said that "we hope the last will have arrived by Oct. 31."

Among those still under way from various points in Southeast Asia are 88 Vietnamese

who had been quartered in the Philippines.

In addition, there are several thousand Cambodians, Vietnamese and Laotians awaiting transport to the United States from Thailand. They are eligible for entry as relatives of American citizens or of Indochinese refugees already in the United States.

They are also eligible for resettlement assistance under the legislative authority created last spring by Congress at the request of President Ford, which stipulated that the United States would accept about 130,000 Indochinese refugees.

The eligible refugees are among a total of 60,000 Indochinese displaced by the Communist take-overs in Phnom Penh, Saigon and Vientiane in the last half year.

About 34,000 of these are Meo tribesmen from Laos, and 4,000 others are Laotian refugees. The rest are Cambodians and Vietnamese. Almost all of the 60,000 are living in makeshift camps in Thailand where, according to foreign observers, the conditions are generally "abominable."

Mrs. Taft said the United States would probably take in about 2,600 of the Laotians separately from the current Indochina refugee program.

"I expect we'll have refugees trickling in for years to come," she said, "but I would like to wind down this particular program around the end of the year."

The resettlement program has

President to Appear On 'Meet the Press'

President Ford will answer questions from newsmen on a special one-hour anniversary edition of "Meet the Press," Sunday morning, Nov. 9, on NBC-TV.

The telecast which is to be broadcast live, starting at 11:30, will mark the show's 28th anniversary on television, and the first time an incumbent President has appeared as a guest.

On that show, Lawrence E. Spivak, who is retiring, will make his last appearance as moderator and producer.

placed 114,854 Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees in American communities with American sponsors since it began six months ago. Mrs. Taft said there were 20,055 refugees "still in the system"—some of whom will be going on to other countries.