

1,600 Refugees Sail From Guam In Attempt to Return to Vietnam

AGANA, Guam, Oct. 16 (AP) —About 1,600 refugees who fled South Vietnam after the Communist take-over sailed for their homeland today with no assurance that they would be welcomed back.

They sailed aboard the *Thuong Tin I*, a former South Vietnamese merchant ship.

Today North Vietnam joined South Vietnam in condemning the United States for letting the refugees leave.

Tran Ngoc Thach, chairman of the repatriation committee aboard the ship, said the evacuation was the latest in a series of United States crimes against Vietnam.

"Even in postwar times, crimes have been accumulated in the evacuation plans that have caused hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese families to live in separation and suffering," he said.

The charge mirrored closely the official position of the Vietnamese Government toward the American refugee program, and might help prepare the way for the refugees' return.

Mr. Thach said the more than 100,000 refugees who fled Vietnam immediately before the Communist victory in April were "seduced and deceived" by fears of an impending bloodbath.

"The extravagant propaganda themes concerning a bloodbath in South Vietnam are of legend, and only consist of an intention to cover up countless numbers of war crimes committed in the past 30 years," he declared.

North Vietnam said today, in a broadcast monitored in Hong Kong, that the United States must halt the repatriation immediately or "take all the consequence of its adventure."

A spokesman for the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said his Government sympathized with the individuals who wanted to rejoin their families. But he added, "The Vietnamese will decidedly not allow the United States imperialists to capitalize on these aspiration in service of their dark schemes against Vietnam and her sovereignty, in disregard of public opinion."