

# Kennedy Blasts The Evacuation

Washington

The United States failed to evacuate thousands of Vietnamese it had intended to bring out, while thousands of Vietnamese who should not have been were flown out or fled themselves, Senate Edward M. Kennedy (Dem.-Mass.) said yesterday.

Continuing wearings he has held over the last several weeks, Kennedy summarized the findings of two staff members of his Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapers.

The two aides spent a week touring refugee camps in the western Pacific and the United States.

The last-minute rush from Saigon left behind thousands of Vietnamese who had been designated for evacuation, according to the aides. Kennedy said the administration's evacuation plan was "ill-conceived, poorly implemented and undertaken with little command control in the field."

At the same time that the

United States was unable to bring out these Vietnamese, officially designated as "high risk" if they stayed because of their U.S. associations, thousands of other Vietnamese were evacuated or fled although they would have been better off staying, according to Kennedy.

These refugees — including low-ranking soldiers, shopkeepers, an entire fishing village and Saigon bar girls — compose the bulk of the 60,000 now crowding into western Pacific staging areas on Guam and Wake islands, according to Dale DeHaan, counsel to the refugee subcommittee.

"When over half of the refugees fall outside the categories targeted for evacuation and parole into the United States," Kennedy said, "troubling questions inevitably arise over the wisdom and efficacy of the evacuating program. And these questions were known from the first day of the airlift from Saigon."

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WXP story, by Lawrence Meyer, is filed Indochina.