

the state

Fueled over crab fishing

Viets flee Texas town

United Press International  
SEADRIFT, Texas — Most of the 100 Vietnamese who sought a new life in this Gulf Coast town have fled because of local feuding that has left one man dead and are unsure whether to return, a Vietnamese spokesman said Tuesday.

An outraged Baltimore, Md., restaurant owner, Leon Ruthenberg, who employed most of the Vietnamese in a Seadrift crabpacking plant, said he asked the U.S. Civil Rights Commission to intervene and hoped to stir White House concern.

Some local residents blame Vietnamese crabbers and shrimpers for ignoring unwritten rules against trespassing on other crabbers' trap lines, but Police Chief Bill Lindsey blamed "two or three troublemakers on each side."

"We fight in my country for 20 years already," said Tuyn Nguyen, a construction worker, who had moved to Palacios. "We are very tired. We don't want trouble. We want to work only. If we move back and then have to move again, we don't have the money."

Only two of about 25 Vietnamese families remain in Seadrift. The others have moved to Houston, Louisiana and other places.

"I say stop bringing the Vietnamese into this country," said Ruthenberg, whose BoBrooks Inc. plant employed five members of Nguyen's family. "If they're gonna get hurt here, you might as well let them drown out in the ocean."

"This is a damned shame. This is going to hit the White House. I'm going down there Wednesday (to-

day). I'm taking a Baltimore policeman with me for protection."

Billy Joe Aplin, 35, a crabber, was shot to death Friday after a fight. Hours later, a Seadrift home occupied by Thai Van Nguyen was firebombed, though damage was slight, and then three Vietnamese fishing boats were burned.

Chinh Van Nguyen, 20, and Sau Van Nguyen, 21, were charged with murder in Aplin's death. Chinh was arrested Friday and remained jailed in lieu of \$75,000 bond. Sau surrendered Monday in Port Arthur and was being moved to Port Lavaca.

Lindsey and Calhoun County Sheriff's Investigator John Sexton said they had no suspects in the firebombings.

After the shooting Friday night and the pre-dawn Saturday fires, City Council in emergency session imposed a 9 p.m. curfew and Lindsey, bolstered by a call-up of reserve deputies, said he would enforce it indefinitely.

"I hope another one or two days of curfew will be sufficient," Lindsey said. "After that, we'll see how we feel. If we feel it's necessary, we'll extend it. We're in control."

Lindsey said three persons were arrested between 9 p.m. Monday and dawn Tuesday for refusing orders to go home. He said they had been drinking, were uncooperative and "just didn't have the money" to pay the \$37.50 fine.

Councilwoman Sue Blevins, whose husband, Marcus, is a shrimper, said the tension stemmed from Vietnamese failure to adjust to local rules against setting traps too near other fishermen's traps.

"There's no law against it," Seadrift Mayor Rayburn Haynie said, "but some of the fishermen think of it as sort of claim-jumping."

Officials in neighboring counties along the Texas coast, where hundreds of Vietnamese have settled because of fishing and an expanding economy, have reported similar tensions but no major incidents.

Federal law enforcement officials said they were monitoring the situation, but none of the cases so far involved federal jurisdiction.

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Eight states eyed for synfuel plants

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Texas, Colorado and Wyoming are among eight states where the Carter administration might establish synthetic fuel plants in quest of relief from pressures of meeting energy needs.

Besides those states, the Energy Department is eyeing potential sites in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Montana and North Dakota.

In addition, the Department of Energy is contemplating sites for oil shale extraction plants in Colorado and Utah.

"But by no means does that indicate these are targeted counties or that the potential is limited to them," DOE spokesman Carl Eifert cau-

Eifert alluded to a preliminary department report that suggested a major synthetic fuel plant could bring a county 4,000 new jobs and federal investment up to \$2 billion. The study also noted that multiple environmental problems might be spawned.

Eifert, a member of the DOE's Office of Environment, said the report showed Carter's plan to produce 500,000 barrels of domestic synthetic fuel daily by 1990 can work.

"The report indicates production of that much synthetic fuel is possible," Eifert said.

Eifert, however, cautioned that many factors must figure in final decisions, including environmental impact statements, coal availability, and moves by private industry and Congress.

The Washington Post said Sunday that a number of other counties could be added to the list of potential plant sites once a private analysis is completed by Rand Corp. for the energy department.

According to the Post, the 41 sites are an extremely conservative estimate of the number of places where synthetic fuel plants could be set up.

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