

Somalia has more refugees than Asia

United Press International
WASHINGTON — There are nearly four times as many refugees in Somalia in Africa as in Cambodia and Thailand.

The plight of the "Boat People" of

Vietnam and of Afghans fleeing Soviet invasion has held the headlines, but in terms of sheer numbers, fighting in the Horn of Africa between Somali guerrillas and Ethiopian forces has produced the "major refugee problem," according to the

United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

The Horn of Africa, comprised of Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti in northeast Africa, draws its name from its distinctive shape, resembling the horn of a rhinoceros.

Africa's refugees today number an estimated 2.5 million, of a world total of 9 million, according to U.N. figures. The Organization of African Unity however, estimates there are 4 million refugees in Africa.

The U.N. commission estimates the number of Southeast Asian refugees at 400,000 in camps, plus an unknown number on the Thailand-Vietnam border.

Today one of five Somalis is a refugee, and while the flow of refugees is expected to slow, U.N. officials say they have no idea how many more may be expected.

The Sudan, which has declared 1980, "Year of the Refugee," houses an additional 400,000 Ethiopian refugees.

Despite being "serious in terms of numbers," says Stan Siegel, Coordinator for African Refugee and Humanitarian Affairs of the Agency for International Development, "The willingness of African nations to take in their own (has) taken the urgency out" of relief efforts.

"You don't have the utter starvation, the desperation" that is the case with the boat people, he said.

As many as 1,000 refugees enter Somalia daily. The number of refugees has jumped from 88,000 in mid-1978 to 1 million to 1.5 million today. Only 500,000 of the refugees find shelter in the 21 permanent and five transit camps. Another 700,000 live outside the camps.

Women and children make up 90 percent of the camp populations. The men remain in Ethiopia or are in guerrilla groups fighting Ethiopian forces.

"There is no electricity in any of the 21 camps, no refrigeration, no inoculations, no latrines and uncontaminated water," reported Rep. Andrew Maguire, D-N.J., on a recent visit to the region.

Both United States and United Nations authorities expect the camp figure to climb to 650,000.

Somali refugee program costs to the U.N. have increased from \$3.5 million in 1979 to \$40 million in 1980, a twelve-fold increase in one year. Somalia will receive the largest share of the commission's \$120 million to \$150 million 1980 Africa budget.

Agencies such as Oxfam and the International Red Cross have responded to a Somalia plea for \$70 million in additional aid. Medical and construction teams from Sweden, France and the United States and supplies will be sent to meet the growing crisis, U.N. representatives said.

The United States has sent five shipments of medical and non-food items such as kitchen utensils, clothing, blankets and bolts of cloth since January. Food aid totaling 47,000 metric tons, including 23,000 tons of corn, has been sent to Somalia since Oct. 1.

Cubans to stay with Army for at least one more week

United Press International
FORT CHAFFEE, Ark. — The Immigration and Naturalization Service Tuesday began interviewing the thousands of Cuban refugees at this western Arkansas military post but officials said it would be at least another week before any of them could be released to sponsors.

Lt. Col. A.T. Brainerd said 5,593 refugees had arrived at Fort Chaffee as of midnight Monday and said he expected that number to grow to 8,000 by Tuesday midnight. Up to 20,000 refugees eventually are expected at the post at one time. The total number of refugees to go through the post could surpass that figure.

The processing procedures have been streamlined, reducing the process from four hours to 50 minutes per person.

"We have absolutely no backlog at all," Brainerd said.

Officials said 452 refugees had been treated at two clinics with about 20 being admitted for treatment of various ailments. No serious health problems have been reported.

A minor security problem was reported Monday. Two refugees walked across a street from their roped-off barracks to the PX and bought soft drinks before being hustled back.

"It's a difficult task to keep your eye on every one of them," Brainerd said.

There are 1,500 military personnel at the post and 415 of the 450 civilian jobs have been filled but officials said civilian employment could increase.

Spokesmen for four volunteer

groups helping in the resettlement program — Church World Services, U.S. Catholic Conference, Red Cross and Southern Baptist Convention — said they were optimistic a sufficient number of sponsors could be found for the refugees.

David Lewis of the Catholic Conference said 60 percent of the refugees had family or friends in this country.

"The key to successful resettlement is jobs," Lewis said, adding that one reason the 1975 Vietnamese program was successful was the generosity of area residents.

Chaffee officials said training of Oklahoma and Arkansas National Guard and Army reserve units would continue through the summer as planned. The only change is they will have to stay in tents instead of barracks.

Army general calls U.S. military severely limited in strength, scope

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — The commander of the 5th Army, in charge of reserve and national guard units from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border, says the U.S. military is "woefully understrength."

"Our armed forces are now capable of only engaging in limited warfare for limited objectives for a limited time," said Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell III.

Caldwell said Monday he sensed an increasing sense of urgency from the public in the 5th Army area for more military preparedness, "but it's not getting through to Congress."

Caldwell and other military speakers have been making sobering assessments of the U.S. defense posture during Armed Forces Week speeches throughout the city.

"If we don't start achieving a relative military balance with the Soviets

between 1982 and 1985, we will fall so far behind we may never be able to catch up," Caldwell warned.

He said it would take six months to draft men, train and deploy them, adding, "I suggest we don't have six months to play with."

"We only have one foundry that makes tank turrets," the Army leader said. "There is a critical shortage of some types of ammunition. We no longer enjoy the protection of the oceans like we did before — it no longer takes days to cross them."


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