



## PRIME MINISTER

Press Statement No. 517  
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### VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

The Prime Minister, Mr Whitlam, announced today that a total of 201 Vietnamese refugees will arrive in Sydney from Hong Kong tomorrow. Mr Whitlam said this would be the largest single group of Vietnamese refugees to leave Hong Kong for any country to date. The Prime Minister said that almost all those coming to Australia were unlikely to have been offered resettlement in other countries and for this reason their cases had received special consideration.

Mr Whitlam said that 126 of the refugees, were adults, 65 were children and 10 were infants under two years of age. There were 35 family groups and 6 single persons. One-third of the family units were incomplete and almost all were without close relatives here or in any other refugee-receiving country to help them. Most were semi-skilled or unskilled workers. Others were students without vocational training. The medical condition of most of the refugees was quite good. They had been given the usual migrant medical examinations and x-rays. After their arrival in Sydney, all the refugees will go directly to East Hills Migrant Hostel, where special arrangements had been made to receive them.

Mr Whitlam said that selection and approval for entry of this group of refugees had been made because of Australia's commitment to take her fair share of refugees from Vietnam. Mr Whitlam said the Government continued to be in contact with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and would keep the position of refugees under review.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.