



(Far left): A group of 32 Kampuchean who were trucked into the camp at Wat Kōh in Aranyaprathet only minutes after UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim had left after a brief inspection tour there. (Left): Waldheim could not help returning with equal warmth the flattering embrace of this Kampuchean girl at Aranyaprathet Refugee Centre (Below): Waldheim and Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan during the reception ceremony at Don Muang Airport for the UN secretary general yesterday morning.

Refugees' plight moves Waldheim



Pledges to do his best to help out

UNITED Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim yesterday described as a great human tragedy the fate of the Kampuchean refugees in camps in the eastern district of Aranyaprathet which he visited earlier in the day and pledged to make every possible effort to help relieve their sufferings.

He told reporters that he would discuss the refugee problem with Prime Minister Kriangsak Chomanan during their talks today. "We must organize international help because

this problem cannot be settled by Thailand alone. We must find them permanent asylum," he said.

Waldheim, who arrived here yesterday morning

"Have courage. The time will come and I hope we will find solutions to your great humanitarian problem," he said during his speech at the Aranyaprathet

for Kampuchean who fled here since the fall of Pol Pot regime and who were considered only as illegal immigrants.

The second camp, which is about two kilometres from the district seat and is under the supervision of the Defence Ministry, is currently ac-

commodating about 4,200 Kampuchean—mostly ethnic Chinese.

Waldheim, who arrived here yesterday morning from Singapore for a two-day visit on his last leg of a 10-nation Asian tour, visited two camps in Aranyaprathet for a first-hand look at the border refugee situation.

During his visit to the first camp which houses about 7,200 Kampuchean who fled here since the fall of Phnom Penh in 1975 Waldheim told the refugees that he was deeply touched by their fate and that UN will make every possible effort to assure them of countries of final asylum.

problem," he said during his speech at the Aranyaprathet Refugee Centre which, according to District Officer Amorn Anantachia, housed only Kampucheans who hold the status of refugee.

The second camp in Wat Koh which Waldheim also visited he said, was

Kampuchean mostly ethnic Chinese.

At the welcoming ceremony at the Aranyaprathet Refugee Centre, Amorn also asked Waldheim to give priority in resettlement to the 7,200 Kampuchean refugees at this particular camp.

Only hours before Waldheim's arrival in Aranyaprathet, Vietnamese artillery and mortar shells landed into two villages near the eastern border town while more Kampuchean managed to flee across the border into four villages there and in nearby Tapraya District.

Thirty-two of them were trucked into the camp at Wat Koh where Waldheim had made a brief inspection tour a few minutes earlier.

Waldheim said that the situation of the 4,200 Kampuchean at Wat Koh was "in suspension."

He said that he was told no decision had been made about their future and this was one of the issues he wished to discuss with Thai leaders.

Waldheim was handed petitions by some of the refugees during his visit to the first camp about family reunions and other matters.