

# Vietnamese on Alaska Pipeline Job

ANCHORAGE — A Vietnamese who, with his family, was among the first to be evacuated from Saigon, is now cheerfully bracing himself for the full onslaught of a North Slope winter.

Thu Van Dang is working for BP Alaska as a clerk in one of the company's construction camps.

"I like this kind of work. These are good people — I might end up the rest of my life here!" he said with a smile.

Temperatures have already plummeted to a chill factor equivalent of minus 70 degrees below zero, but Thu, who has never been out of the tropics before, is undaunted.

"When my American friends heard we were coming to Alaska they said we would freeze to death or have to live in igloos," he said.

Thu, who worked for the U.S. Embassy and the Agency for International Development in Saigon, and his wife have a family of five children all of whom are with them in Alaska.

Thu was befriended by Brig. General James H. Herbert (U.S.



Army Retired) a former chief of staff for the Alaskan Command, and he took the general's advice in coming to Alaska.

He arrived here with his family on June 8 and a month later was working at Prudhoe Bay with BP.