

2 Senators Urge Viet Pullout Now

Washington

Two influential senators yesterday urged that the United States start evacuating the 6000 Americans in South Vietnam immediately.

But they made it clear they have reservations about the possible evacuation of up to 200,000 South Vietnamese whose lives might be in danger if the country falls.

Senator Henry Jackson of Washington, a leading Democratic contender for the presidency, said on the ABC television program "Issues and Answers" that all but "a tiny handful" of Americans should be pulled quietly out of South Vietnam.

"I would be greatly disappointed if Americans are not being moved out right now," he said, adding he believes dependents are being taken out.

Republican Senator Jacob Javits of New York said on the CBS program "Face the Nation" that Americans should be brought out of South Vietnam "beginning now" with non-essential persons.

The Ford administration is making plans to take Americans from South Vietnam if the need arises. But it is emphasizing that such a move is not imminent for fear of damaging South Vietnam morale.

It is also planning to pull out up to 200,000 South Vietnamese — 14,000 who worked for the Americans, their dependents and others.

Javits said it might not even be possible to get out all of the 14,000. But Jackson said the United States has a solemn obligation not to "pull the plug" on the South Vietnamese who are in danger.

He said that if the risks were "reasonably nominal," he would support such an evacuation.

Maine Democratic Senator Edmund Muskie, interviewed on NBC's "Meet the Press," said that because large-scale use of American troops would involve the United States in the war, the prospects for a massive evacuation of South Vietnamese are "pretty dim."

Both Jackson and Javits said they believe Congress will accede to President Ford's request last Thursday for special legislation to allow him to send in U.S. troops to help with an evacuation — but they emphasized that Congress should provide strict guidelines to prevent further U.S. involvement in the war.

Jackson said he will demand from the administration documents relating to private assurances from President Nixon to South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu that the United States would react vigorously if Hanoi violated the Paris accords on Vietnam.

The White House disclosed the existence of the assurances last week in response to Jackson's charge that the accords contained secret agreements.

Reuters