

SF Chronicle

Thieu's Pilot

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Flies 123 to

Philippines

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The personal pilot of former South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu flew a planeload of refugees from Saigon into Clark Air Base yesterday and won Philippine agreement to proceed to political sanctuary in the United States.

The desperate getaway from the South Vietnamese capital came shortly after the United States ended its operations to take out Vietnamese citizens facing possible Communist reprisal.

Official sources said Lieutenant Colonel Ngo Van Quang, former pilot of Thieu who himself has sought refuge in Taipei, flew a DC-6 with 123 other persons aboard into this U.S. air base, 50 miles north of Manila, in defiance of the Philippine government.

With Quang were Vietnamese air force military personnel and their dependents, the sources said.

United Press