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American Held in California
In Refugee Ransom Demand

LOS ANGELES, May 9 (AP)—
A 57-year-old American has
been booked for investigation
of kidnapping after he helped
three Vietnamese refugees flee
Saigon, then took them to his
Los Angeles home and de-
manded \$1,000 in ransom for
their airline tickets, the police
said. (SFC 9 MAY)

Arthur Lawson, formerly a
civilian employe at the Saigon
airport, was booked on the
charges yesterday and held on
\$5,000 bail.

"I trusted him because I
knew his wife," said Nguyen
Thi Cahn, 21 years old. She and
her sister Nguyen Thi Hue, 13,
and son, Nguyen Nhut Huu, 3,
traveled from Vietnam to Camp
Pendleton with Mr. Lawson. He
had been their neighbor in Sai-
gon and signed sponsorship
papers to escort the family to
the United States with him and
his Vietnamese wife, the police
said.