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SAIGON EVACUEES ARRIVE IN FRANCE

45 Frenchmen Reach Paris
After Start of Airlift
NYTimes

Special to The New York Times

PARIS, Aug. 13—The first 45 of 8,000 French citizens who remained in South Vietnam after the Communist victory last April arrived here today with the most recent reports of life under the new authorities.

Most of the refugees interviewed on arrival at Charles de Gaulle-Roissy Airport said that they had not been allowed to take any money out of Vietnam and that all banks except the Government's Central bank remained closed. One man, however, said he had with him a large amount, received in compensation for a family rice plantation that was nationalized by the Government of Ngo Dinh Diem in the early nineteen-sixties.

Some French concerns—a shipyard, a bicycle factory, a brewery and a cigarette factory—were said to be still operating in Saigon, but on a limited scale. Most of the large landholdings have come under “people's committees” and the new South Vietnamese administration, the refugees said.

They said that food shops were still well-stocked but that prices had gone up about 10 per cent since the Communist victory. Unemployment was said to have risen, mainly because of the demobilization of the South Vietnamese Army, most of whose members are now, reportedly attending classes given by the government.

The refugees said they had heard of resistance movements in the provinces led by former military units, but said they could not confirm the reports they had not been allowed to leave Saigon.

A missionary priest said that he had been ordered by his superiors to leave Saigon for France and that 50 priests remained there.

The 45 Frenchmen, 15 of whom are of Vietnamese ethnic origin, flew from Saigon to

Bangkok yesterday on a Caravelle jet airliner of Royal Air Lao and came here from Bangkok today. Arrangements for their departure from Saigon were made by the French Embassy there in lengthy negotiations with the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

The French-South Vietnamese agreement allows for five flights from Saigon a week, each carrying about 80 people, for the next month. A Foreign Ministry spokesman here said the French expected to extend the agreement at least until the end of October to evacuate remaining French nationals.

To obtain exit visas, the French citizens had to pay all their debts as well as taxes to the South Vietnamese authorities and also had to arrange for disposing of their property, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. He said that some French citizens in Saigon lacked means of paying their debts because the new Government had liquidated their businesses.

Saigon Silent on Refugees

Special to The New York Times

HONG KONG, Aug. 13—The new South Vietnamese authorities appear to be still having difficulty deciding whether to allow about 2,000 Vietnamese refugees abroad to return to Saigon, knowledgeable diplomats say.

So far only 22 Vietnamese, including 13 crippled children, are known to have been repatriated legally since the Communists took over in April, the diplomats report. The only current official channel is by United Nations chartered flights from Vientiane, Laos. A few other refugees are believed to have returned privately on board fishing boats or freighters.

According to the sources, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees has delivered lists to the new Saigon Government of Vietnamese refugees in Guam, here in Hong Kong and elsewhere in Southeast Asia who want to return. But the United Nations agency has met with no response.

United Nations officials are reported to be puzzled by the Communists' silence on the issue, but they have taken the view that the military management committee now running Saigon has its hands full with trying to restore the economy and maintain security and therefore places a low priority on repatriation of Vietnamese who fled abroad.