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## 'BLACKMAIL' LAID TO SAIGON ON G.I.'S

Home Leaves Jeopardized,  
Rep. Wolff Charges

By HEDRICK SMITH

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 30— Representative Lester L. Wolff of Nassau County charged today that the South Vietnamese Government was jeopardizing the Operation Reunion program, under which American soldiers in Vietnam are permitted two-week leaves in the United States, by threatening to cancel the landing rights of the charter aircraft companies that have been flying the men home.

Mr. Wolff, a Democrat who returned three days ago from a visit to Vietnam, said the Saigon Government was "blackmailing" the charter companies into leasing a 727 jetliner to Air Vietnam, the national airline, and into turning over some \$1-million worth of ground equipment to Saigon's Tansonnhat Airport.

The Congressman said in an interview that the Vietnamese had threatened to suspend the landing rights of the companies after the first week in January unless the 727 is leased and the equipment is turned over.

"The whole Operation Reunion program is being threatened by this cynical maneuver," Mr. Wolff said.

### Talked With Bunker

He said that he raised the matter last week in Saigon with the United States Ambassador, Ellsworth Bunker but that Mr. Bunker had been unwilling to interfere for fear of insulting the Vietnamese.

"He went on about how we were guests in a host nation and how we mustn't offend our hosts," Mr. Wolff said. "He told me he didn't think he could pressure them too much on this one."

"It seems to me that the Vietnamese demands on us are getting even greater as the Vietnamization program goes on. I think it's outrageous that they should be holding us up on this one when there are men who want to come home and are authorized to come home by the Defense Department. For most of them, the charter fare is the only way they can afford the trip."

Mr. Wolff said the charter companies were charging each serviceman \$369 for the round-trip flight to Oakland, Calif. The regular round-trip fare from Saigon to New York is \$1,250.