

Viets Left Behind

4-2-75
w Post

NHATRANG, South Vietnam, April 1 (UPI)—The South Vietnamese Army lieutenant walked up to the C-47 where Americans armed with shotguns, automatic rifles and machine guns held back a crowd of Vietnamese civilians.

"Could you please let the children on the plane?" he asked.

"If one Vietnamese is allowed on the aircraft, we'll never be able to stop them," an American replied.

"I guess you're right," said the lieutenant, shaking his head, "but it still hurts to see them here."

The Americans were being evacuated to Saigon from Military Region II, which includes Quinhon, Camranh Bay, Dalat and Tuyhoa. All had gone smoothly until the Vietnamese employees at the consulate, who had been led to believe that they would be flown to Saigon, saw the Americans boarding—leaving behind more than a hundred Vietnamese employees and families.

It took armed Americans to get the Americans out.

"I'm so ashamed of the U.S. government that I'll never be able to work for them again, said one government employee. "They totally abdicated their responsibility . . . The people in charge knew eight days ago what was coming, but they refused to do anything about it."