

**Marines' Role****Viet Exit Plans  
For Americans**

Washington

The Defense Department has drafted several contingency plans, including the possible use of Marines, to evacuate, if necessary, an estimated 6000 American citizens in Saigon.

The preferred method would be to evacuate the Americans by commercial and military planes flown in to Ton Son Nhut airport outside Saigon. It is hoped that guards at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon would be able to provide protection as the Americans were evacuated by airplane.

If there is a complete breakdown of security, however, the Defense Department would be prepared to send in additional Marines by helicopter to evacuate the Americans. The Marines could establish a security perimeter around the airport as the evacuation took place.

An alternate plan would call for the Marines to establish a secure landing place in some other area in or near Saigon to evacuate the Americans by helicopter.

Should evacuation by either plane or helicopter be impossible, the Marines would be ordered to escort the Americans to the coast, where they could be picked up by four Navy ships already evacuating Vietnamese refugees or standing offshore for possible evacuation of other Vietnamese refugees.

There are 700 combat Marines aboard the four Navy amphibious and cargo ships. In addition, the helicopter carrier Okinawa, with a Marine landing battalion of 1800 men, is stationed in the Gulf of Siam.

The primary mission of the Okinawa is to rescue Americans in Cambodia, but the ship could quickly be shifted to the vicinity of South Vietnam to evacuate Americans in Saigon.

*New York Times*

**Boat Burns**

San Diego

A 36-foot cabin cruiser moored in San Diego Bay was destroyed by fire yesterday.

*Associated Press*