

# Men Who Want to Fight

Washington

Over the past few months the embassies of South Vietnam and Cambodia have received thousands of offers from American men volunteering to fight in Southeast Asia.

These requests, in fact, far exceed requests from families to adopt orphaned children, according to embassy officials.

From colleges, small towns, all parts of the United States, these men have written or phoned in requests to fight in the armies of Cambodia and South Vietnam. All have been politely refused so far, but some say they will organize private armies.

These prospective volunteers are a curious collection of military veterans of all ranks, unemployed teenagers who have never been out of the country, and men worried about the safety of their Vietnamese friends—are motivated by strong and varied passions.

In telephone interviews some said they wanted to earn money as a mercenary, many wanted to fight communism, and one wanted to rescue a sweetheart.

Undaunted by the Paris peace accords which forbid American combat involvement in Indochina, some of these men have asked to change their citizenship.

"We passed these requests (for citizenship) to Phnom Penh but they said 'no, we have enough Cambodians,'" said Peang Meth Gaffar, press attache for the embassy of the Khmer Republic.

In Oroville, Calif., Jessie Bible, the mother of veteran Richard W. Bible, said she is

SFChronicle

**Lon Nol**

APR 11 1975  
**Going to**

**Hawaii**

Ngurah Rai, Bali

Cambodian President Lon Nol, who has been resting for ten days on Bali, left for Hawaii yesterday for medical treatment, officials said.

He was accompanied by a 29 - member entourage, including his wife and children.

Lon Nol left Cambodia on April 1 in hopes his departure would create a climate for peace talks with the rebels.

*Associated Press*

happy that her son was not allowed to go back.

"He was in love with a woman over there and he told me he wanted to go to Vietnam and get her back," Mrs. Bible said. "He sent her money and didn't go out with anyone here for about three years. Six months ago he met a new girl that's bet-

ter for him."

Retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel James F. Akin Jr., now a pilot for Alpine Air in Aurora, Colo., said he didn't care for the South Vietnamese. "I wouldn't be fighting for them," he said, adding that he was opposed to communism and hated to see America lose a war.

"It's pride in America, you betcha," Akin said.

The Cambodian embassy has received between three and five calls a day over the past three months, from prospective volunteers, according to the press attache.

South Vietnam's requests are ten times as great as Cambodia's since few veterans have fought in Cambodia and most believe North Vietnam is the opposing force in both wars.

In a formal interview with Colonel Nguyen Hein Diem, the South Vietnamese military attache here, one such veteran unfolded his plan to raise an army despite all the restrictions.

Bart S. Bonner, a 34-year-old ex-marine, told the Vietnamese he had "quiet — or clandestine — ways" to raise a private, volunteer force of 75,000 American veterans to fight in South Vietnam under the Confed-

erate flag.

"I'm thinking of an army outside the influence of the government," Bonner said. "The American military was never really allowed to fight (in Vietnam), they were politically restricted in everything they did . . ."

Why did this Watertown, N.Y., businessman travel to Washington to solicit aid for his army from organizations whose name he would not disclose?

"I am literally disgusted with the attitudes of our government; it's a simple question of betrayal of an ally," he almost shouted, pointing to the Vietnamese attache. "We created South Vietnam as an anti - Communist nation and we are responsible for them."

A technician at Da Nang air base from 1965 to 1966, Bonner said he is confident that once he gathered together 75,000 soldiers, the American people would come up with the guns and bullets for them.

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