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**Carnival air
in evacuation
of Cambodia**

By Matt Franjola
Associated Press

ABOARD THE USS OKI-NAWA, Gulf of Thailand — Four U.S. Marine CH53 helicopters came in on a line low over Phnom Penh at 9 o'clock yesterday morning, landing amid a cloud of dust at the U.S. Embassy compound.

Excited Cambodian children ran to watch the leath-ernecks charge out of the choppers with their M16 rifles.

The Marines quickly ran 50 yards in four directions

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and established possible fighting positions.

It wasn't necessary. To the Cambodians in the area, it was a show of sorts. A carnival air prevailed. Kids scrambled over fences to watch. They waved, cheered and clapped, not knowing what it all meant.

The evacuation, code-named "Operation Eagle Pull," was ordered by President Ford as the Khmer Rouge closed to within a mile of the Phnom Penh airport.

A total of 276 persons were evacuated including 82 Americans, 159 Cambodians and some third-country nationals. Among the Cambodians was Acting President Sau Kham Khoy. Word had gone out from the U.S. Embassy the afternoon before to be ready for evacuation

at anytime.

About 40 journalists got the word over an embassy walkie-talkie as they gathered in the breakfast room of the old French-run Hotel Le Phnom at 7 a.m.—"This is Tango. Assemble your group at my location."

Tango was the U.S. Embassy. Reporters had two hours to get to the embassy compound on the south side of Phnom Penh.

The compound was an armed camp. Civilian American security personnel, Marine guards and military at-

taches were loaded down with combat gear, guns and radios. Only a handful of curious Cambodians stood watching.

Whisked through a check-off, Americans and others were given name cards. Then they boarded trucks

for the quarter-mile drive to the pickup zone at the Diplomat Club sport field.

Friends accompanied departing American newsmen, posing for souvenir photographs and telling them to "have a good trip." Many of the Cambodians had worked

with Americans as combat photographers and reporters for years.

Huddled on each of the huge choppers were about 50 people. Two Marine door-gunners kept an eye over their heavy 50-caliber machine guns.