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## American's

Report on  
Viet Fears

By Maitland Zane

An American civilian who flew in from Saigon last night with his Vietnamese wife and family expressed fears that the Viet Cong has prepared a "death list with three million names on it, Americans included.

"There's going to be a slaughter," Gary Batchelder said. "I'm almost positive."

Batchelder conceded he had no inside information about a "death list" or a "slaughter" of Vietnamese opposing the Viet Cong.

He said his information came from other Americans preparing to flee the country, and from Vietnamese-language newspapers, which are full of atrocity stories and pictures.

Batchelder, a tall, tanned man who looks older than his 28 years, was one of some 25 passengers who had boarded Pan Am's Flight 842 in Saigon 22 hours before.

Most were wealthy Vietnamese, like Mrs. Van Vu, a slight, elderly woman who was coming to visit her son, Bao Vu, who said he is a visiting professor at Berkeley.

Batchelder, an industrial electrician who first went to Vietnam in 1967 as a Navy man, was with his wife Thuy and children David, Robert and Kahty.

In recent months he has been working at Bien Hoa

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air base, 14 miles outside the capital.

Last year there were 72 U.S. civilians like himself working for Lear Siegler Inc. at Bien Hoa. Ten days ago when he quit his job only 40 were still working.

"I would guess about 2000 Americans are left," he said. "We had a hard time getting out."

Hard — and expensive.

He estimated it cost him \$4000 in "tips" to get his wife a Vietnamese passport and exit visa.

There were difficulties, too, at the American Embassy, and Mrs. Batchelder didn't get her American visa until the day before the family left.

A week ago yesterday, he said, he witnessed the attack on President Nguyen Van Thieu's palace by a South Vietnamese Air Force jet.

"I saw the F-5 come in and make three passes, including the bombing run," he said.

"Three weeks ago they began rocket attacks on Bien Hoa. I'm sure Tan Son Nhut — (Saigon's international airport) — will be next."

Unlike most Americans still in South Vietnam, Batchelder doesn't expect Thieu's government to fall — at least not this month.

"I'll think he'll stand up," he predicted. "Morale is terrible, but the South Vietnamese are beginning to fight back."

Batchelder, who is going to be staying with an aunt in Concord while he looks for a job, was far more critical of Americans than of the Thieu regime.

"America is running down," he said bitterly. "America is running out of there like a dog with his tail between his legs. Holler! I hear we're not welcome anymore in the Philippines or Thailand either. I really like Vietnam. The first chance I get, I'll go back."



**Gary Batchelder with his wife Thuy and his children David, Robert and Kathy**