

# Senate Unit's Plan For Vietnam Aid

## Washington

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee tentatively agreed yesterday on a \$200 million humanitarian aid authorization for South Vietnam.

Chairman John Sparkman (Dem-Ala.) said the money could be used for military assistance if required to protect withdrawal of Americans in an emergency.

Sparkman said the committee would consult with administration officials on the tentative draft and meet again late today to take formal action.

The committee agreement followed acknowledgment by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger that the U.S. embassy in Saigon has been instructed to reduce the number of Americans in South Vietnam to an essential minimum.

Senator Hubert Humphrey (Dem-Minn.) said the withdrawal of Americans is going "very well" but the committee wants to see assurance that the plan is working before taking final action.

Sparkman said there is nothing in the draft bill that would prevent military protection for the evacuation of some South Vietnamese, but no large-scale removal is contemplated.

He said food, medicine

Back Page Col. 1

### From Page 1

and other services are among items in the humanitarian aid package.

Although the President would be given discretion as to how the money is used,

committee members said weapons assistance to South Vietnamese government forces is not contemplated.

A separate administration request for \$722 million in military aid to South Vietnam is under consideration by the Senate Armed Services Committee, with a decision promised by tonight by Chairman John Stennis (Dem-Miss.)

U.S. officials said privately the number of Americans in South Vietnam would be cut to about 1000 within a week or two. Kissinger told the Senate Appropriations Committee there now are "well below 5000" in that country.

Kissinger said there have been no threats from the South Vietnamese government to deny Americans the right to leave the country if additional military aid is not forthcoming.

"They are not being held for ransom," he asserted.

Defense Secretary James Schlesinger also told the Armed Services Committee that the Americans "are not being held hostage by the South Vietnamese government. There is concern about the possible decay of the situation in Saigon and the reaction of the populace."

Schlesinger said American citizens have been "trickling out" of Saigon for the last week and that Americans remaining in South Vietnam have been reduced to 3650 persons.

He said this includes 750 U.S. government employees and about 1000 women and children "who are American in origin."

Schlesinger said that under the best of circumstances, the \$722 million

military aid request can sustain South Vietnam only through July 1, the end of the fiscal year.

If the country survives longer than that, it would need about \$2 billion in military aid through July 1, 1976, and about \$1 billion yearly "for the foreseeable future," he said.

He also spoke to the House Armed Services Committee.

Schlesinger said the aid

funds being requested "will have an impact on U.S. combat readiness" because military equipment, supplies and ammunition will be taken from U.S. combat units.

Army Chief of Staff General Frederick Weyand said rifles, artillery and communications equipment are needed more urgently than any other items in South Vietnam.

Schlesinger said the South

Vietnamese lost one-third of their air force during the recent retreat. But he said that other than a request for two transport planes, they retain sufficient aircraft for their defense.

Kissinger told the appropriations committee that the administration would be satisfied with a catch-all contingency fund, but that it should include the full military aid requested to permit "a modicum of military sta-

bilization" in South Vietnam.

With new U.S. aid to Saigon "the possibilities for a negotiated settlement will improve," Kissinger testified.

However, he added, "if Congress refuses assistance the only negotiations that will be possible would be to arrange the surrender of South Vietnam."

Associated Press