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40 Marines To Embassy In Saigon

Washington

Forty Marines have been flown to Saigon to strengthen the U.S. embassy's security guard, the Pentagon said yesterday.

Major General Winant Sidle, a Pentagon spokesman, said the Marines will increase the embassy guard to about 120 men in what he called a "prudent, precautionary measure."

The move was requested by U.S. ambassador Graham Martin, Sidle said.

The 40 Marines, armed with rifles, machine guns and grenades, were flown to Saigon by helicopter from the aircraft carrier Hancock in the South China Sea, he said.

Sidle said there is no reason to anticipate a Communist attack on the embassy in downtown Saigon, but he noted that "it's been done before."

The U.S. embassy in Saigon has been attacked twice in the past.

Associated Press
