

Organizer of Airlift

NYTimes Lewis Dean Brown

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When he retired a month ago as Deputy Under Secretary for Management in the State Department, Lewis Dean Brown may have envisioned himself as walking into a future of relative peace and quiet. But he could not have been more wrong.

Man
in the
News

Mr. Brown had hardly shaken himself loose from his Foggy Bottom quarters when he was suddenly summoned last week by Secretary of State Kissinger and asked to take on a new job of staggering dimensions—that of rescuing only the Americans in on but also tens of thousands of South Vietnamese before the Communists overwhelmed the city. Mr. Brown was summoned to Mr. Kissinger's office in Washington and arrived on April 17. He was in New York the same day he flew to Amman and worked through the night to organize the airlift. As of now, more than 3,500 Americans and nearly 12,000 South Vietnamese have been flown out of reach of the advancing armies.

As one of the State Department's experts in efficiency, Mr. Brown was held in the highest esteem by Secretary Kissinger. The rescue assignment that the Secretary handed him was one of the toughest imaginable and Mr. Brown had to muster all the organizational skill that first brought him to Mr. Kissinger's attention when the Secretary took office in September, 1973.

Recalled From Jordan

Mr. Brown, now 54 years old, had been a State Department career officer in the Foreign Service for 28 years when he was recalled from the post of Ambassador to Jordan to become Deputy Under Secretary of Management, a key position for controlling the bureaucracy as well as securing appropriations from Congress.

After having served as Ambassador to Senegal and Gambia, beginning in 1967, Mr. Brown was transferred to Jordan in 1970 at the time that King Hussein's Government was engaged in heavy military operations against Palestinian guerrilla forces.

As the United States Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Brown drove in an armored personnel carrier to present his credentials to King Hussein at the royal palace at Humar, 18 miles northeast of Amman. One of the prime topics of conversation at that meeting was a subject very much in Mr. Brown's thoughts—the evacuation of

American citizens from the country.

Each evening, Ambassador Brown bundled his remaining paperwork into an attaché case and, according to an observer there at the time, would reach into the top right-hand drawer of his desk.

Inside the drawer was a .38-caliber Smith and Wesson police special revolver in a tan leather holster that Mr. Brown would clip onto his belt under his blue blazer.

The trim, graying diplomat would then get into an armored black Chrysler with his Jordanian bodyguard, a retired captain in King Hussein's Royal Guards. A sub-machine gun lay on the car's floorboard.

The Ambassador's car would be followed by another car with four armed Jordanian soldiers, and Mr. Brown would drive to his residence — by a different route each night—determined not to become a hostage of the guerrilla forces in Jordan.

Mr. Brown was an infantry officer for four years in World War II and he saw action in five campaigns in the European theater. He told his observer in Amman: "I may not be able to hit anything with my eyesight these days. But if necessary, I do expect to shoot and make some noise. And I don't expect to be taken hostage."

Role of a Hostage

"I would hope," he said at the time, "that I would not be an embarrassment to the United States Government by being held a hostage. There are many demands one can conceive of that could be made upon the Jordanian or American Governments by taking hostages."

Secretary Kissinger reportedly developed an enormous respect for Mr. Brown as a result of his work in Jordan. When Mr. Kissinger reorganized the State Department personnel, he gathered about him a group that had won his trust. They were known by some junior officers as the "diplomatic dozen" and one of these was Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown was born in New York City on Aug. 21, 1920. After graduating from Wesleyan University in 1942, he entered the Army and saw action in the campaigns in Normandy, northern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe.

He began his service with the State Department in 1946, beginning as vice consul in Leopoldville, Belgian Congo. Subsequently, he served as vice consul in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada; as second secretary in the embassy in Ottawa; as



United Press International
A member of the "diplomatic dozen."

Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs; as first secretary in the embassy in Paris; as deputy director of Western European affairs and counselor at the embassy in Rabat, Morocco.

He is married to the former June Vereker Farquhar. They live in Washington and have a son, Michael.

Mr. Brown is known as a man who speaks briefly and to the point. At his first news conference in Washington yesterday, after taking on his rescue assignment, he told reporters:

"I'm Dean Brown. I was a very fortunate fellow. I retired from the Foreign Service about a month ago and found myself a good job. Last Thursday I got a telephone call saying could I be in Washington on Friday and here I am. I haven't been home since."