

WXPost MAY 6 1975  
**Thais to Return Planes**

**Decision Thwarts Communist Claim**

From News Dispatches

Despite warnings from Saigon and Hanoi, Thailand is returning to the United States the 120 U.S.-made aircraft flown there by fleeing South Vietnamese airmen, the Pentagon announced yesterday.

A Pentagon spokesman said that most of the warplanes, including C-119 and C-47 cargo planes and F-5 and A-37 fighters, were being dismantled and returned to the United States by ship, but that C-130 transports were being flown directly to Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

The planes had been assigned to the defeated South Vietnamese government under military aid agreements, but the new Communist government in Saigon, the Provisional Revolutionary Government, claimed that the planes belonged to it.

Hanoi pressured Bangkok to re-

turn the U.S.-made planes to Saigon, but Thai Foreign Minister Chatichai Choonhaven had earlier said his government would keep the planes.

Liberation Radio from Saigon broadcast a condemnation of Thailand and said, "It is time for Thailand to reconcile its policy toward Vietnam or Vietnam will reciprocate accordingly." Hanoi Radio had said that returning the planes to Saigon "would be an important contribution to normalization of relations . . . and peace in the region."

In Bangkok, meanwhile, a Thai government communique announcing the reduction of U.S. military personnel by 7,500 "places" by the end of next month made no mention of closing any of the four remaining American bases or of any

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reduction in the 350 American aircraft now in the country.

The current level of U.S. military strength in Thailand is reportedly 25,000 servicemen.

The new civilian Thai gov-

**Vietcong Seeking  
Volunteer Musicians**

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, May 5—The Vietcong radio launched a recruiting campaign for musicians on Monday, urging members of student orchestras to contribute their time and talent for radio broadcasts "as soon as possible."

The radio currently plays such songs as "The Flowers of Victory Are Blooming Everywhere," "The Song of August 19" and "The March of the Vietnam Workers."

ernment declared upon taking office in March that all American forces would have to leave Thailand within 12 months, but few observers think this is likely. The governing coalition is shaky and unlikely to be in office within a year, and there is considerable opposition to the withdrawals from the rightist Thai armed forces.

"The military do not want this to happen" because they feel that without the continued presence of American bases "they would be unable to get as much U.S. military assistance as they presently get," said a Foreign Ministry source. "They consider this equipment vital to combat the insurgency."

Within the past few weeks, a spate of well-publicized Thai Communist insurgent attacks in northern and northeastern Thailand have provided useful ammunition for the military, he said.

Elements of the Foreign

Ministry and the civilian government, however, see the continuing U.S. military presence here as preventing any attempt at rapprochement with North Vietnam. Hanoi has already said that it will not talk with the Thai government until all foreign troops are withdrawn from the country.