

U.S. Companies Aid Evacuated Vietnamese Employees

By BRENDAN JONES

Ten American companies have reported that they managed to get varying numbers of Vietnamese employees out of South Vietnam and have kept them on their payrolls or plan to help them find other jobs.

Three American banks that had branches in Saigon reported that nearly all of their staffs—Americans and Vietnamese—and a relatively large number of dependents had escaped by different means. The banks' staffs totaled more than 200.

The banks, which began moving out "vulnerable" Vietnamese a week or more before the Saigon Government surrendered, were the Bank of America, the Chase Manhattan Bank and the National City Bank of New York. Spokesmen said that most went out by private plane, while some were included in the American Embassy's helicopter evacuation.

Among other American companies that succeeded in bringing out largely Vietnamese staffs and dependents well before the surrender were Pan American World Airways and the American Express Company.

Of the airline's staff of 46,

Continued on Page 37, Column 2



Chase International executives arriving this week at Kennedy Airport after a flight from California. They were members of Chase's Saigon operation. John P. Mitchell, right, and Paul J. Didier, center, are second-vice presidents. Ralph White, rear, is an assistant-treasurer at Chase's Bangkok branch, who helped with the move. The man at left, unidentified, was also on the flight.

U.S. Companies Helping Own Vietnam Refugees

Continued From Page 35

including 4 expatriates, 9 Vietnamese elected to remain behind. The rest were flown out along with 266 dependents. The travel agency brought out all of its 28 personnel and 34 dependents.

All the banks said they had maintained evacuated personnel on salary just as they would if they had been in the process of being transferred between branches in different countries. Most of the Vietnamese staff members, it was noted, were trilingual, highly skilled and could readily be relocated in any of the banks' worldwide branches.

Reassignment Due

American Express also said it had kept all personnel on payroll and planned to reassign them to British or other branches. Pan American said that two American managers and 11 Vietnamese staff members already had been reassigned, but that some who had served as baggage handlers and in other unskilled jobs would have to be helped to find other jobs.

Early last month Exxon, Mobil and other American companies that had been exploring for oil off the southern Vietnamese coast removed rigs and their American crews. However, two American oil companies, Esso Eastern, Inc., and Caltex, were not so fortunate in getting out many of their Vietnamese workers. Each of these companies had chains of more than 100 service stations in South Vietnam.

Exxon Subsidiary

Esso Eastern, a subsidiary of the Exxon Corporation, had 700 employes, almost all Vietnamese and nearly all service-station workers. A spokesman said yesterday that, in addition to six American managers who had been evacuated, about 20 Vietnamese employes and 110 dependents had been taken to the Guam refugee center.

The company, he said, plans

to help these and any other Vietnamese employes in obtaining jobs with Esso or elsewhere. He noted that a large number of Vietnamese workers had been trapped in Da Nang when that city was captured.

A spokesman for Caltex, a joint venture of the Standard Oil Company of California and Texaco, Inc., said that the company "just doesn't know now" how many of its 220 workers may have been evacuated. He said that two American employes, who had been brought out, were being assigned to other posts.

A Mere Handful

Two other American companies — Foremost-McKesson, Inc., and the Northrop Corporation, both based in California — also indicated they had been able to get out only a handful of Vietnamese workers.

R. M. Cleveland, director of international personnel for Foremost-McKesson, said that the company had given the American Embassy a list of Vietnamese recommended for evacuation. While it is believed that perhaps six or seven employes were lifted out, he said, the company is still trying to confirm whether more escaped.

The American company had a 50 per cent partnership with a French company in a milk canning plant near Saigon that employed 300 Vietnamese workers. Mr. Cleveland commented that "It's not going to be easy, but we will try hard to relocate those Vietnamese employes who did get out."

Northrop, which had a contract with the South Vietnamese Government for maintenance of its air force, had been phasing out its program, a spokesman said. The company, which had 100 Vietnamese employes last fall, had only 20 when hostilities ended, he said. So far, he added, only one of them, along with his wife and several children, was known to have reached the refugee base of Camp Pendleton in California.