

SF Chronicle

## Left Behind

MAY 12 1975

### By U.S.,

### Koreans Say

#### Saigon

U.S. officials refused to take 148 South Koreans, including ten diplomats, from Saigon during the U.S. evacuation even though the Koreans were in the American embassy compound, the Koreans say.

"We were told to line up in the embassy compound and we did," said one of those left behind.

"But when the last helicopter came into the compound it just settled down and then lifted off and it did not carry out anyone."

Prior to the hasty and disorganized evacuation April 28 and 29 all foreigners — and especially diplomatic staffs — were assured by the U.S. embassy they would be able to get aboard the evacuation helicopters.

Korean officials said they were told by U.S. officials to line up outside the embassy compound early in the afternoon of April 28.

The Korean embassy charge d'affaires entered the compound and spoke briefly with a U.S. marine officer who reportedly assured the diplomat all Koreans would be taken out.

Late in the afternoon, with a growing crowd of Vietnamese trying to get out and panic threatening, the Koreans were allowed into the rear of the embassy compound and told to form an orderly line.

"So we did that," one Korean said. "And we waited and waited."

The last helicopter to land on the embassy grounds quickly took off again, presumably because by that time — dawn of April 29 — the marines had abandoned the compound and barricaded themselves inside the embassy building.

So, the source said, the Koreans left the embassy and sought shelter and safety elsewhere.

Now they are bitter, especially the diplomats, who said they feared for their lives in a Communist takeover because of the large Korean commitment to Vietnam during the American war here.

In fact they have been well treated by Viet Cong officials, as have all foreigners who were forced or chose to remain in Vietnam.

Like other foreigners trapped here they wait day by day for word of a Red Cross flight to take them out.

The latest word from International Red Cross officials is that such a flight is at least ten days away.

*United Press*