

Saigon Tough on Exiles

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The Ford administration yesterday told Congress that Saigon's new Communist leaders are being difficult about readmitting South Vietnamese citizens who fled their country in recent weeks.

L. Dean Brown, head of the inter-agency task force in Vietnam, at one point termed the Provisional Revolutionary Government's attitude "obstreperous," but hastily added that perhaps the new government is simply disorganized.

Brown was reporting to a House Judiciary subcommittee on President Ford's program for taking care of the thousands of South Vietnamese who sought asylum in the face of North Vietnam's takeover of their country.

He told the subcommittee that about 130 Vietnamese now in U.S. control have expressed a desire to return to South Vietnam. (SEE NYT) SFC

The United Nations' high commissioner for refugees, he said, has been attempting through contacts in Geneva and Paris to arrange for return procedures with the new authorities in South Vietnam.

"We understand the Communist authorities are being difficult about procedures for repatriation," Brown said. "These are not easy negotiations."

As of now, he said, the U.N. organization "does not feel in a safe enough position to send anyone back until they know what will happen to them."