

SFChronicle

Head of Viet

Refugee Aid

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Resigns

Washington

Ambassador L. Dean Brown resigned late yesterday from the Indochina Refugee Relief Task Force that he organized and masterminded for the six weeks that it has been in operation.

Julia Vadala Taft, 33, was selected to succeed him.

Brown, who was retired from the State Department and had become president of the Middle East Institute in Washington, told his staff he was forced to quit the task force because the institute urgently needed him back.

He had taken a two-week leave of absence from the institute six weeks ago on April 18 to get the task force going. Problems are in the forefront now.

A State Department spokesman said Brown's departure could "under no circumstances" be described as stemming from anything other than the need to rejoin the institute.

United Press