

Thailand and U.S. Schedule Pullout Of Last of B-52's

NYTimes JUN 3 1975

BANGKOK, Thailand, June 2 (AP) — The last of the B-52 armada that once symbolized American air might in Indochina were set today to leave Thailand, now seeking friendship with countries that were targets of the big bombers.

A joint Thai-United States announcement said the 17 B-52's still here would start leaving Friday. The last 31 United States Air Force F-111 swing-wing fighter-bombers there will start departing June 15 and at least 4,500 of the 23,000 United States servicemen stationed in Thailand will leave by the end of the month,

the announcement said.

The B-52's in Thailand, like most of the 200 United States combat planes now based there, have seen no battle action for nearly two years. Congress cut off American air raids in Indochina Aug. 15, 1973, and since then Thailand-based planes have assigned only reconnaissance and supply missions.

The cutback announcement said Ubon Air Base, one of seven Thai airfields manned by United States forces at the height of the war, would close as soon as possible.

The latest installment of the phaseout dating to 1973 will leave four Thai bases occupied by United States squadrons, predominantly F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers and utility, transport, rescue and reconnaissance units. All United States forces are scheduled to be gone by next March.