

# Still More Yanks Get Out of Laos

Vientiane, Laos

The U.S. embassy cut back to a skeleton staff of 22 persons yesterday, reducing the official American strength in Laos by nearly half.

Armed demonstrators occupied three embassy installations and put pressure on the remaining Americans to get out of the country.

The senior American official in Laos, Charge d'Affaires Christian Chapman, said 20 U.S. officials left Saturday afternoon and yesterday morning after the latest wave of anti-American protests.

"It is obviously an insecure situation," Chapman said after the seizure Saturday of the U.S. Information Service library, a residential compound and the embassy's maintenance compound. "There is no sense in keeping lots of people around."

Most of the Americans who lived in the residential compound decided to seek accommodations elsewhere. They were allowed to take only clothing and personal effects with them.

The 22 persons remaining are the last official Americans in the country. U.S. officials estimated there are possibly 90 private American citizens still in the country, many of them young drifters.

"Our advice to all Americans is that unless you have necessary business here, you should leave," Chapman said.

The demonstrators, some carrying weapons, have so far identified themselves only as "the protest group" and have presented no formal demands.

Leaflets and hand-scrawled signs which have appeared in the downtown area

during the last few days have demanded that Americans leave within 24 hours and accused U.S. Information Service of "spreading decadent culture."

Rumors circulated throughout the city that more demonstrations were planned for today to coincide with the June 30 deadline for removal of the U.S. Agency for International Development mission from the country.

The last AID workers left the country Thursday and American officials said all its property had been turned over to the Laotian government.

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