

A Foreign Exodus Starts in Saigon

Bangkok

A planeload of foreigners flew out of Saigon yesterday in the beginning of what diplomats believe will be an exodus of most of the Westerners left in South Vietnam.

Passengers of about ten nationalities, mostly French families, were aboard the Caravelle jet that landed in Bangkok. The plane was the first of at least five chartered by the French government.

Informed sources said the French began the flights after difficulties in doing business in South Vietnam started to increase.

Three Americans aboard the flight were identified as Kistner Mitchell, Joseph Hughes, whose brother Richard, founded Street Boys Homes and was reported still in Saigon, and a Jesuit priest from Boston, the Rev. Aram J. Berard.

One arrival described his fellow passengers as "very glad to get out."

The new authorities have expressed willingness to have foreign businesses in South Vietnam, according to more than one recent arrival, but they have done little to make it possible for foreigners to operate.

"They're just dragging along," said one. "They're just selling each other coffee and Coke."

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