

Americans

In Saigon

Fear Status

The writer was expelled from South Vietnam last Wednesday. He had been the last American to work for a news agency in that country.

By Alan Dawson
United Press International

BANGKOK, Sept. 6—Nearly five months after the Communists took over South Vietnam, they are actively seeking U.S. recognition and some of the 50-odd Americans still there fear they will be held as hostages to force negotiations.

The gate guard at the Saigon airport carries an order barring all Americans from entering the terminal to board outgoing flights.

Apparently the objective of the quest for U.S. recognition is American aid. Deputy government adviser Trinh Dinh Thao said in an interview: "It is only natural, according to the history of warfare, that the loser must pay the winner for the damages."

The government is also campaigning to move people from the capital out to the farms. About 300,000 already have been moved out in the well-organized operation, and officials said that 2 million of Saigon's 3.5 million would go as quickly as possible.

But unlike the Khmer Rouge in neighboring Cambodia, the South Vietnamese Communists so far have used persuasion, not force.

Bands of anti-Communist former soldiers still roam the Central Highlands and parts of the Mekong Delta. But as far as is known, they have not launched any significant attack in the past four months.

Government officials say they are confident Americans will again occupy the former U.S. embassy, abandoned April 30 only hours before Vietcong and North Vietnamese troops entered Saigon. "We want normal relations with the United States," ranking spokesmen tell anyone who asks.

Washington's veto of South Vietnamese membership in the United Nations, therefore,

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has irritated the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

Still flushed with victory but faced with the reality of a shattered economy, officials have hinted that they still have a couple of screws that could be tightened on the United States.

Many Americans still in the country are convinced they will not be able to leave in the foreseeable future. I was the only American allowed to leave since the Aug. 11 U.S. veto of the south's U.N. bid.

About a dozen Americans, most of them picked up outside Saigon during the last days of the war, are under loose detention somewhere in the country. The others are free to roam around Saigon, living wherever they can afford, eating, drinking and—if possible—enjoying their time in Vietnam.

Intelligence officers assigned to monitor their movements always are friendly when talking to the Americans, and stress that Communist Vietnamese harbor no ill feelings toward the American people.

"We know that your people have opposed your government's war on us," a Foreign Ministry official said. He also said he knew nothing about any order barring Americans from leaving Vietnam.

Nguyen Huu Tho, senior adviser to the government and one of the most powerful men in South Vietnam, thanked the peoples of only three countries for helping his forces win the war—the Soviet Union, China and the United States.

Thais Invite Gromyko To Discuss Accords

From News Dispatches

Thailand has invited Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromkyo to visit Bangkok to

conclude a cultural agreement and discuss a Soviet request to open a Soviet military mission there, Thai Foreign Minister Chatichai Choonhavan said in an interview.

"Since we have established diplomatic tie with China we should increase our contacts with the Soviet Union," he said Associated Press in Bangkok.

Also in Bangkok, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadruddin Aga Khan issued a world appeal for financial aid to help about 50,000 Indochinese refugees living in Thailand.

A target of \$12.4 million has been set as the amount needed to help Thailand feed and house Cambodian, Laotian and

Vietnamese refugees.

On Friday, the Guam legislature adopted a resolution to move unruly Vietnamese repatriates to Wake Island, where there is no civilian community. The move was prompted by recent rioting in which four U. S. marshals were injured, two buildings destroyed by fire and several government automobiles damaged.

"They have just simply worn out their welcome," one legislator said of the Vietnamese refugees who are demanding repatriation. About 1,500 repatriates are being detained at Guam's Camp Asan.

In other Southeast Asian developments:

- China's top leadership turned out for a banquet in Peking celebrating Prince Norodom Sihanouk's forthcoming return to Cambodia after five years in exile. Sihanouk is expected to leave Tuesday or Wednesday for Phnom Penh.

- South Vietnam announced that the curfew in Saigon has been reduced by two hours, now running from midnight to 4 a.m. The government also said that two officers in the previous administration, Troung Cuoi and Nguyen Van Tong, were sentenced to death as war criminals. They were convicted of taking part in a massacre and in torture deaths.