

# U.S. Completes Its Pullout

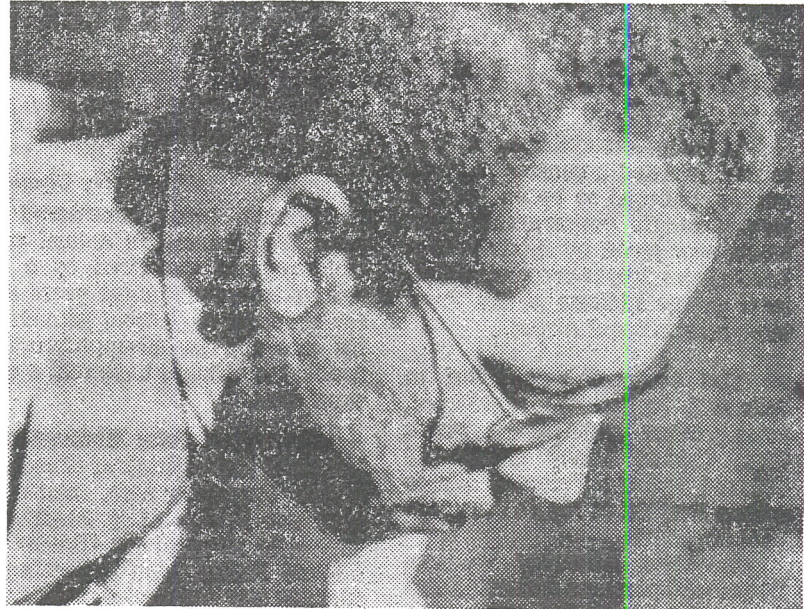
**Bangkok**

The United States completed its military withdrawal from Thailand yesterday, ending a 26-year American military presence here.

The withdrawal, which was completed on the deadline set by the Thai government four months ago, set the stage for Thailand to improve its relations with the Communist regimes in neighboring Vietnam and Laos.

Thus far, the withdrawal has defused the left-wing and student demonstrations that had been a regular fixture of Thailand. In its place, however, has been a growing fear among the moderate and right-wing forces that Thailand may not be able to counter the potential threats to her security, particularly from Vietnam and Laos, without the American presence.

Monday night, Premier Seni Pramoj, Foreign Minister Phichai, and the supreme commander, Ad-



MASTER SERGEANT GEORGE LEROY DAVIS *UPI Telephoto*  
He checked in for his flight to Hong Kong

miral Sangad Chaloyu, went on nationwide television to calm these fears.

Both the supreme commander and the foreign minister said that the American troops had been in

## From Thailand

Thailand not to protect Thai territory but to press the war in Vietnam.

The "designated" last American officer in mainland Southeast Asia, George Leroy Davis, a 40-year-old Air Force master sergeant from Cincinnati, boarded a Cathay Pacific flight to Hong Kong yesterday morning with his wife and two children.

At the same time, the Military Assistance Command Thailand (MACTHAD), established in an agreement signed Oct. 17, 1950, between the United States and Thailand, ceased to exist.

Only about 250 American military advisers, operating under the continuing military aid agreement, remained in Thailand yesterday.

American officials said that the number of Americans who administer military assistance will remain somewhat below the ceiling of 270 imposed by Thailand.

The last combat troops, who Thailand had said in March of last

year would have to leave, left last fall.

According to American military estimates, the United States has left behind nearly \$400 million worth of fixed emplacements ranging from the sprawling Utapao Air Base and Sattahip Naval Station on the Gulf of Siam to a selection of radio and communications gear that will be operated by the Thai military.

Final negotiations are still continuing on a number of technical points involving the turnover. These talks are expected to lead to permission for the United States to use the Takhli Air Force Base, built by the United States, as a refueling stop for flights between the Philippines and the Diego Garcia base in the Indian ocean.

The negotiations with Thailand also involve the sale of 15,000 tons of ammunition by the United States that is being stored at the Korat ammunition dump in northeastern Thailand. The price is likely to be

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## Soviets Ease News Sources

**Moscow**

The Soviet Union will permit foreign journalists to have direct contact with government officials, the parliamentary bulletin said yesterday.

Previously, officials required foreign journalists to apply to the press department of the Foreign Ministry for interviews or answers to questions.

The decree was the third easing of restrictions on correspondents in the Soviet Union following the Helsinki conference a year ago.

*United Press*

about \$45 million, although Thailand would prefer that the United States donate the ammunition without charge.

*New York Times*