

# Vietnam Agrees to Let Americans Leave

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WASHINGTON, July 21 (UPI)—Vietnam has agreed to allow all Americans stranded in that country since the end of the war to leave, beginning Aug. 1, and to take Vietnamese members of their families with them, it was disclosed today.

Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, and Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, made public similar telegrams received from the Vietnamese Ambassador in Paris, Vo Van Sung, announcing that the Government had authorized the departure of all the Americans, their wives and their children.

The announcement came as State Department and Congressional officials accused Vietnamese Government officials of not having fulfilled promises that the stranded Americans would be allowed to leave.

There was no exact figure on the number of Americans remaining in Vietnam or the number of wives and children.

## U.N. Agency to Help

But Representative G. V. Montgomery, Democrat of Mississippi, chairman of the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia, estimated the number of Americans as at least 40.

The telegrams from Paris said: "Americans blocked in South Vietnam will be authorized to leave South Vietnam, according to their wishes, and with their wives and children, beginning Aug. 1, 1976, with the help of the United Nations

High Commissioner on Refugees."

At a meeting of Mr. Montgomery's Select Committee earlier in the day, the Mississippi Representative and Philip E. Habib, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, accused the Vietnamese of renegeing on promises to let Americans leave.

"Despite assurances given to this committee by North Vietnamese officials that all Americans would be free to leave, a substantial number are still stranded in Saigon," Mr. Habib said. "There were recent reports that another group of Americans would be coming out, but this has not happened."

Senator Kennedy and Senator McGovern have conducted personal negotiations with the Vietnamese in an effort to get the Americans out.

Mr. Kennedy met with Mr. Vo Van Sung in Geneva last October and continued his efforts in Saigon and through an

aide in Paris. Mr. McGovern raised the issue with President Huynh Tan Phat and Foreign Minister Nguyen Thi Binh of the Provisional Revolutionary Government in Saigon in January.

In a statement Senator Kennedy called the Vietnamese announcement "another gesture of good will to the American people."

"Vietnam has taken another step in promoting better relations between our two peoples and countries," he declared.

Mr. Montgomery said at a news conference that despite the Vietnamese official's reference to "wives and children" in his cablegram, it was not clear whether those released would include all Vietnamese dependents of the stranded Americans. He said he would attempt to find out.

"While we are not sure if the telegram includes all American dependents detained in Saigon, we intend to follow up and seek a clarification of the Vietnamese position," he said.