Yanks Leave Vietnam In 'Final' Evacuation

Bangkok

A chartered Air France jetliner flew almost all remaining Americans out of Vietnam yesterday, leaving behind in a jail cell a one-time Central Intelligence Agency officer whose existence has not been acknowledged by the Hanoi government.

The 38 Americans, some of whom said they had not wanted to leave, were trapped in Vietnam when the Communists took over the south last year. Their evacuation, with 11 Vietnamese dependents, was carried out by the United Nations and prompted by requests from the U.S. government.

The man excluded from the "final" evacuation flight was Tucker Guggleman, 54, a colorful, husky, ex-Marine who moved to the Phoenix program of the CIA but retired from the agency in 1972.

The Phoenix program was di-

rected at rooting out Viet Cong guerrilla leaders in South Vietnam.

Just before Saigon's fall in April 1975, Guggleman flew back on his own to try to arrange for the escape of some of his former associates. He then failed to make an evacuation flight in those final days and was arrested some time later by North Vietnamese police.

There may be one other American in jail — identified as John Harlow Gay — but information on him is sketchy. His existence, at least, is acknowledged by the Hanoi government, which included him on the list of Americans who had registered and wanted to leave.

Four U.N. officials based in Vietnam made the two-hour flight from Saigon to Bangkok with the Americans. These officials said Vietnamese authorities had made it plain to them that yesterday's flight manifest included "all the Americans who have registered and who wish to leave. They said they had no interest in keeping Americans who did wish to stay."

There were two other exceptions. One was a woman holding joint American-French citizenship who chose to go to France and planned to leave Saigon later. The other was lanky, Vietnamese-speaking Richard Hughes, the young American who became well known for the homes he organized for Saigon's tough and usually or-

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phaned shoeshine boys. Vietnamese authorities said Hughes asked to remain behind for several more days and would be permitted to leave when he wishes.

The Vietnamese authorities indicated to the United Nations officials that Gay —who was on the U.N. list — might be freed later. Other passengers on the flight said that they had heard that Gay had recently been jailed, but no one had any specific knowledge.

The word that the Americans would be flown from Saigon initially announced by Senator Edward Kennedy (Dem-Mass.), chairman of the Senate subcommittee on refugees. He said he had received a cable from Hanoi's ambassador in France, Vo Van Sung, reading:

"The American bloc in South Vietnam will be authorized to leave South Vietnam according to their

More on the released Americans on Page 11.

wishes with their wives and children, beginning on Aug. 1, 1976, with the help of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees."

Some of the passengers were swept through Vietnamese customs in Saigon with hardly any notice, but 12 of the American men were stripped nude. A 3-year-old girl was subjected to a thorough body search.

Construction engineer Fred Golden had only an airline bag, a painting and an empty golf bag that had been given to him as a gift at the last moment. "They planted the golf course in sweet potatoes," he announced sadly to an old Saigon hand among the questioning newsmen.

A few of the Americans had not wished to leave Vietnam and were virtually expelled. One of these was Paul Horton, 32, from Wilton, Calif. He had become a minor legend in South Vietnam where he worked for a meager government salary at the Bien Hoa mental hospital. He said he had wished to remain in Vietnam but was arrested in April and vaguely accused of having connections with the CIA. He was told three hours before takeoff that he was leaving Vietnam.

"Every American was suspected of being with the CIA," said Maurice Bauhahn, a medical technician from Grand Rapids, Mich.