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Some of the Americans who were allowed to leave Vietnam get off the airplane that flew them to Thailand.

49 U. S. CITIZENS AND DEPENDENTS FLY FROM SAIGON

Americans Stranded Since
Communist Take-Over
Journey to Bangkok

4 ARE KNOWN TO REMAIN
—AUG 2, 1976

Some in Departing Group
Tell of Imprisonment,
Others of Leisure

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Special to The New York Times

BANGKOK, Thailand, Aug. 1 — Forty-nine United States citizens and dependents of Americans—virtually the last in Vietnam—were allowed today to fly from Saigon to Bangkok, ending more than a year of uncertainty about their fate.

Their journey, arranged by the United Nations, marked the virtual end of a long American presence in Vietnam that involved half a million troops at the height of the war there. Those who left today had been stranded when the Communists took over Saigon on April 30, 1975.

Only four Americans are known to be still in Vietnam and at least three of them are expected to leave within a week. But some United Nations refugee officials suspect that others could be scattered in remote regions of the country.

12 Children in Group

Those who arrived here today — 23 American passport holders and 26 dependents, including 12 children—told a variety of stories of life in Vietnam in the last year. Some told of harsh imprisonment. Others told of leisure.

Most said they were relieved that the waiting for permission to leave was finally over,

though a few said they had pleaded to no effect to be allowed to stay in Vietnam. Some told stories of a country in chaos, others praised the "revolution" there.

No official reason was given by Hanoi for the sudden decision last week to release this last large group of Americans. However, an official of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees, which was asked by the Vietnamese Government to organize the evacuation, observed:

"The Vietnamese are very conscious of the need to normalize relations with the United States both for their immediate and long-term good. They no doubt see anything that can contribute to settling the question of United States nationals as a positive step."

3 Taken From Prison

As they transferred from the white Air France Caravelle jet to shuttle buses for the ride to the airport terminal building here, most of those arriving chatted quietly among themselves. Three tiny puppies escaped from a woman's wicker basket and scampered over laps and under feet.

Three of the people who arrived had been taken directly from Chi Hua Prison in Saigon to Tan Son Nhut airport there this morning. One of them is Sherman Bennett of Grand Rapids, Mich., a former radio engineer who had spent, he said, 2 months and 27 days in jail while the Vietnamese authorities investigated an accident more than two years ago.

"I sure was happy to get out of there," he said, beaming. "But before I went in there, life was pretty quiet in the last

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