

# Pullout of U.S. Troops Is Readied

## Saigon

A team of about 75 Air Force transportation specialists is expected to arrive in Saigon today to help speed the airlift of the remaining American troops out of South Vietnam, American officers said yesterday.

A few hundred American soldiers have left the country since Wednesday.

But the officers said they thought that the large scale departure of the more than 24,000 American servicemen still in South Vietnam would probably start toward the end of next week.

"There's a lot of paper work to be done," one officer said.

The officers said the troops would be moved on large jet transports chartered from commercial airlines. They are to fly directly to Travis Air Force Base near San Francisco, stopping along the way only to take on fuel.

According to the terms of the cease-fire agreement, all U.S. military personnel must be out of South Vietnam within 60 days of the signing.

Informed officers say they expect that a little more than half of the remaining troops will be gone by the end of the first 30 days. The last troops to leave will be those in headquarters units and military policemen who are responsible for providing protection until the end.

All through the American withdrawal from a peak of more than 500,000, fresh troops have been arriving in South Vietnam.

The last flights also carried several civilians and a contingent of Marines, the officer said, suggesting the shape that American involvement in Vietnam will take in the days to come.

The civilians, informed officials said, are joining a growing force of technicians paid by the United States to assist the South Vietnamese military forces.

Some officials say that as many as 10,000 American civilian technicians will eventually be assigned to South Vietnam, many of them working with Saigon's air force, which is gravely lacking in skilled mechanics and specialists in other fields of aviation maintenance.

The Marines are to be assigned as guards at U.S. diplomatic facilities. As the American military organization is liquidated, officials say, the United States plans to establish consulates in at least three of the four military regions of the country and the Marines will guard these installations.

Meanwhile, tons of equipment must be shipped home, although great quantities will be turned over to the South Vietnamese armed forces.

*N.Y. Times Service*