

APR 2 1973

The Vietnam Pact Is Closing Sweden To U.S. Deserters

NYTimes

STOCKHOLM, April 1 (AP)—American military deserters can no longer expect automatic asylum in Sweden, a high Government official said today.

"Sweden has no reason to accept deserters now that the Vietnam war is over and the soldiers no longer risk being sent to a war scene," said Kjell Oeberg, general director of the Swedish Immigration Board.

The Swedish Government declared in February 1969 that deserters would be accepted as long as they were escaping a war. This became invalid the moment the Vietnam agreement was signed in Paris, Mr. Oeberg said.

The 450 or so American deserters and draft evaders now in Sweden may stay, but new deserters will be stopped at the borders. Since the United States draft has been suspended, there presumably will be no more draft evaders.

"Mere deserting is no longer reason enough to be granted asylum in Sweden," Mr. Oeberg said, adding, however, that "special weighty reasons could motivate a residence permit here for deserters."