

having the policy waived generally for Vietnamese citizens who wished to leave. Events after our departure have borne out that judgment, and it is worth noting that Embassies which remained after our departure had no more success than we did in having the policy changed. It must also be stressed that until the last minute, the Vietnamese authorities remained able to prevent departures which they had not authorized. Indeed, on the day our Chargé d'Affaires left, the authorities did in fact prevent the departure of persons who were in his automobile and whom he was trying to bring with him.

### 3. AMERICAN OPERATIONS

There was only one real exception to this general situation. It is that the USA Embassy, especially on the last day of its evacuation, brought out large numbers of Vietnamese who, as far as we know, were not authorized to leave. The Americans could do so for reasons which are unique to themselves; they are certainly circumstances which did not apply to Canada. Rightly or wrongly, the USA had been present and active in Viet-Nam for years, as a major military power engaged in major military operations. Canada never shared their involvement, never had the physical means and resources which went with it, and never had the status which the USA enjoyed and which conferred upon it the ability to act independently of the South Vietnamese authorities. The Canadian people, over the years, did not wish that Canada share the military involvement and status of the USA in Viet-Nam; we did not therefore share the power of independent action which went with that involvement.

What the USA could do in South Viet-Nam, at the very end, Canada could not do. But there is more: what the USA may have needed to do, Canada did not automatically need to do. For example, it could be thought that Vietnamese who had been closely involved with the Americans were in danger from the new South Vietnamese régime, and had to be evacuated for that reason. The same is not true of Vietnamese who were associated with Canadians. There are, for instance, no valid grounds to assume that having worked for Canada or for Canadians in South Viet-Nam places Vietnamese citizens in jeopardy. There was, therefore, not the same need to assure their evacuation from their own country.