

AROUND THE WORLD;

U.S. and Vietnam Agree On Immigration Program

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The United States and Vietnam have reached agreement on a program that will initially permit the immigration of up to 1,500 Vietnamese and their families to the United States, the State Department said today.

The first departures from Vietnam, totaling about 250 people, are expected to begin Thursday aboard a weekly Air France flight from Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, to Bangkok, Thailand.

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American officials said the Carter Administration, in selecting which Vietnamese were eligible for entry into the United States, was giving priority to those with relatives in the United States or those who were formerly employed by the United States Government.

The State Department spokesman, John H. Trattner, said the program was humanitarian in nature and was unrelated to the question of normalization of relations between Washington and Hanoi.

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