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Thai families to be evacuated

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TWENTY-EIGHT family members of Thai Embassy staff and Thais working with international agencies in Rangoon will be evacuated within the next couple of days as a result of the situation in Burma, Foreign Ministry spokesman Saroj Chavanaviraj said yesterday.

Mr Saroj said that the 28 had planned to leave for Bangkok today but their departure was postponed because of trouble expected in the Burmese capital. The spokesman could not say when they can leave Rangoon.

The ministry spokesman said there are 45 staff members at the Thai Embassy.

9CAB

Meanwhile, US Embassy spokesman Ross Petzing said yesterday that a "partial evacuation" of personnel at the US Embassy in Rangoon has also been ordered.

"Dependants are ex-

pected to start coming out of Rangoon and heading for Bangkok by air in the next few days.

"There could be as many as 90 to 95 dependants. This is a precautionary measure," Mr Petzing said.

Australian Embassy officials said about 20 Australian dependants would be evacuated "on the next available flight" until the situation improves.

The Chinese and Philippine embassies also announced plans to evacuate dependants and affiliated nationals.

One Australian noted there was a similar concern about a

tack by looters at the offices of the UN Agriculture Organisation on Tuesday night.

He said it was time crowds gathered against a foreigner's evacuation.