

85 Arrested in Saigon Spying Mystery

SAIGON — (AP) — South Vietnamese authorities kept a tight seal today on an investigation of what they have described as a "Communist intelligence network" with roots in President Nguyen Van Thieu's Independence Palace. The cloak and dagger case came to light in late July with apparent official leaks to Saigon newspapers about the arrest of Huynh Van Trong, one of Thieu's trusted special assistants who dealt in political intelligence.

Sources close to the investigation say about 85 persons have been arrested.

Among those detained are civil servants, South Vietnamese army officers and at least one schoolteacher, according to reliable sources.

Several officials from the Chieu Hoi Ministry, which deals with Communist defectors, also have been taken

into custody.

Some accounts say the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency had a role in exposing these spy network.