

SAIGON SHIPPING U.S. GOODS NORTH

Civilian and Military Items
Left Behind Are Involved

By DAVID A. ANDELMAN
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BANGKOK, Thailand, Oct. 7
—Huge quantities of civilian and military goods left behind in South Vietnam by the United States are being shipped out of the port of Saigon to North Vietnam, according to Western officials and refugees recently arrived from Saigon.

Western intelligence officials who have interviewed refugees and monitored the port traffic said that the civilian goods include air conditioners, refrigerators, television sets and private vehicles.

Most are new, although some of the automobiles are believed to have been in use already in Saigon. The South Vietnamese administration has been discouraging the use of motorized vehicles to cut down on the consumption of gasoline, which must be imported.

On the military side, the materiel being shipped to the North includes a broad variety of weapons and ammunition, even the river patrol boats supplied by the United States to the South Vietnamese navy.

Some Expect Resale

Some Western intelligence officials speculate that the movement of all these goods north could presage their resale to foreign countries or clandestine arms dealers. There has been no concrete evidence that any such deals have been con-

cluded.

This week, in an interview published in The Far Eastern Economic Review, an English-language weekly published in Hong Kong, North Vietnam's Deputy Foreign Minister, Phan Hien, was asked to comment on reports of sales of these abandoned arms to Pakistan.

"This claim is a sheer fabrication, unfounded and tendentious," Mr. Hien replied.

In the same magazine, Wilfred Burchett, the Australian left-wing journalist who just left Saigon, said that the local government was making major efforts to reopen a number of factories originally financed by the United States, particularly textile mills, a meat plant and a pharmaceutical plant reportedly capable of supplying most of the medical needs of both North and South Vietnam.

There has been no evidence that any food is being shipped from Saigon, either to other countries or to other parts of Vietnam. A large quantity of rice from the American aid program was left behind in Saigon.

Huynh Tan Phat, head of the provisional revolutionary government, told Mr. Burchett in an interview that while "no more rice will be imported" this year, South Vietnam would be only self-sufficient. "Next year," he said, "we will have a small exportable surplus and within a few years South Vietnam will again be an important rice exporter—very useful for foreign exchange earnings."

Much of the information about the movement of goods within Vietnam, from south to north, has come from several recently arrived Vietnamese refugees who had been working in the port of Saigon within the last several weeks.

Last week, two navy officers who had been supervising the loading operations arrived in Bangkok. They told Western intelligence officials who questioned them that they had left Saigon on Sept. 24.