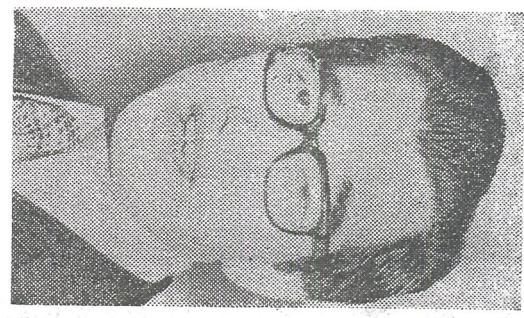


Foreign Press Reaction



TRAN KIM PHUONG
'Only one conclusion'

New York
Newspapers in Europe and Asia consider that the turn of events in Indochina embarrasses Washington and undermines the U.S. image as a world power.

"Indochina has shown... the United States could not be relied on," said Asahi Shimbun, Japan's biggest paper.

"The Americans are in the process of receiving one of the biggest slaps in their history," said Le Echoes, a Paris financial paper.

President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam was "installed and supported by the United States to prevent Communist influence" and "symbolized American commitment in the area," said Singapore's New Nation. It said Thieu's "loss of power will be interpreted as a loss of American influence."

"If the United States allows the two Indochina countries to be engulfed by Communist forces," said the semi-official Korea Herald, "a most crucial impact will be demoralizing setback to the confidence of all of the U.S. allies...."

Some editors blame poor leadership in Saigon and Phnom Penh.
The conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung said Thieu "has developed a tragic capacity to unite all forces politically against him."

Despite the rapidly deteriorating situation in South Vietnam, Phung said "most certainly the war is not over."

United Press

Viet Army Blames Foreign Newsmen

Saigon

With panic beginning to spread, South Vietnam's army newspaper urged the government to take "strong measures against foreign correspondents" because they are in "major part" responsible for the recent Communist successes.

In a front page editorial Tuesday, the newspaper, Tien Thuyen, or Frontline, described foreign newsmen in South Vietnam as "deadly dangerous" and "the enemy within."

Tien Thuyen is published by a group of senior officers associated with the army's psychological warfare department.

Although the editorial was directed at foreign newsmen, the usually heavily censored Saigon press itself

has reported the South Vietnamese army's catastrophic rout of the last three weeks in surprisingly full, vivid and accurate detail.

Readers of Saigon's nine daily papers have been presented day after day with discouraging accounts of retreats, mudlines and looting by soldiers, and the dreadful fate of hundreds of thousands of refugees.

The impunity with which the Saigon press has reported most of these disasters appears to be another reflection of the government's recent breakdown.

Even the usually busy censor, who in the past blotted out offending paragraphs or stories, or even confiscated whole editions, seem to have given up their job.

New York Times

lapse of a house of cards."
Hong Kong's South China Morning Post said the Saigon government's "capacity to rally the demoralized soldiers and officers is doubtful."

Of president-in-exile Lon Nol, West Germany's independent Sueddeutsche Zeitung asked: "Why didn't the Americans — who were never very particular about nonintervention in the internal affairs of Cambodia — push this monument to ineptness off the stage earlier?"

The Belgian independent Le Soud said "to believe that regimes like Lon Nol's and Thieu's could hold fast, even with money and arms" was a losing gamble from the start.

The Dutch newspaper Het Parool said the Paris Peace agreement of January, 1974, was "primarily a means to enable the United States to end its participation in the struggle" but reduced U.S. aid "became a factor which must have encouraged North Vietnam and the Viet Cong."

The Korea Herald said the Paris pact "handed the Communists a new chance to mount a continuing war of attrition to be escalated into major onslaughts."

United Press