

DA NANG SCARCITY OF FOOD REPORTED

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U.N. Aide Says Communists
Are Rationing—Calls for
Extensive Assistance
NYTimes

By KATHLEEN TELTSCH

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 21—A United Nations relief representative has reported after a weekend visit to the Communist-controlled South Vietnamese city of Da Nang that some food rationing has been instituted there because of shortages.

The shortages will reach a danger point in the future, the official said, unless outside assistance is obtained.

The report was made by Alex Casella, relief representative for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, after he returned to his base in Hanoi, North Vietnam. His findings, cabled to United Nations headquarters in Geneva, were made public here today.

Mr. Casella said that some aid was being provided by foreign governments, mainly the Soviet Union, but that the local authorities had emphasized the need for emergency assistance.

Distribution Called Fair

He reported that the Communist authorities in Da Nang seemed to be distributing available supplies equitably and to the most needy.

He said he found conditions normal, with shops, restaurants and schools open and electricity and other public services functioning.

The most serious situation, he added, was that posed by the influx of refugees from the countryside, which has swollen the population from 400,000 to 900,000.

According to Mr. Casella, the Communist authorities who gained control of Da Nang three weeks ago have begun moving 200,000 refugees back to rural areas. The others who do not belong will be "moved and rehabilitated progressively," he said, stressing that United Nations help was urgently needed to assist the resettlement.

The United States is known to have asked Sir Robert Jackson, the aid coordinator here, what assurances there were that the help from the United Nations Children's Fund and the High Commissioner's Office was reaching those for whom it was intended. There was no indication whether the inquiry meant that Washington was considering aiding the humanitarian program, which has been supported by \$10-million from a dozen other governments.

A few United Nations relief experts have traveled in the areas controlled by the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government. Officials here concede that under present circumstances, distribution has to be arranged by local authorities and cannot be supervised.