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**Elated Hanoi savors
its victories in South**

By Daniel De Luce
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HANOI, North Vietnam — This capital of Vietnam's revolution awaits a triumphant climax in the South. It is decked with gold-starred red flags that hailed the Khmer Rouge victory in Cambodia just a few days ago.

Everyone on the streets of this former American B52 bombing target seems to expect the Viet Cong's National Liberation Front to take over in Saigon within a very short time. A military briefing on developments in South Vietnam was the highlight of last night's programming on Hanoi television, which operates twice weekly.

A newly arrived Western correspondent asked a senior official of the Foreign Ministry whether arrangements would be made for a press party to go from Hanoi to Saigon to observe a Viet Cong victory.

"Arrangements like that take time, after an event has already taken place," the official replied. "But it's possible to go to Saigon by regular means

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Once they would have turned their backs.

A mausoleum of heroic size is being constructed in the heart of Hanoi for Ho Chi Minh, the late North Vietnamese president and revolutionary leader.

"Visitors from the South were disappointed when they found we had nothing like this," a Hanoi official explained. "We will provide them with what they have wanted, a symbol of our liberation struggle."

The Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam maintains a special representative in a villa in Hanoi.

In 1970 foreign newsmen were taken to the villa to hear youths and girls from South Vietnam describe physical tortures they said they were subjected to by American counter intelligence officers. Now the topic for a briefing by special representative Nguyen Van Tien is the quick return to normal life under the PRG of Da Nang, Hue and other Southern cities.

"The political situation in Saigon has changed," he said, chuckling. "Will there be negotiations if Big Minh replaces the old government? That's the question asked of me by many re-

porters. We cannot tell beforehand. When you talk to our leaders in Da Nang you will have the opportunity to ask them personally."

Big Minh is Duong Van Minh, a retired general regarded as a neutralist.

Daniel De Luce, retired assistant general manager of the Associated Press, has arrived in North Vietnam on special assignment for the AP.

He is accompanied by his

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and wait there for the victory celebration. It might be somewhat risky but not much."

However, the Foreign Ministry said it has cooperated with the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam in arranging for a trip to Da Nang by CBS Television and Associated Press staffers. Da Nang has been taken over by the Viet Cong.

The Western correspondents were told: "You will find everything in order in the liberated territory. Even the streets are safe at night — unlike Washington, D.C."

Hanoi looks little changed since I first saw it in February, 1970. Some buildings are a bit shabbier. Others

are newly painted. But the nightly blackouts have ended. The airport is relatively crowded with international traffic. Men and women construction workers are repairing the Long Binh Bridge over the Red River. It had been bombed by American jets in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The rice fields are lushly green. Young soldiers in new uniforms are almost everywhere and some of them are women.

The big change seems to be in people's feelings. Their elation at the military successes in South Vietnam and Cambodia is unmistakable. The grim concentration on the war effort no longer seems the only way of life for Hanoi's citizens. They wave at a foreign photographer to take their picture.

wife, Alma, who made a 1,000-mile, 18-day tour of North Vietnam in February, 1970, during the years of United States involvement in the war.

The De Luces were given permission by the North

Vietnamese government earlier this month to fly to Hanoi via Vientiane, Laos, to write stories on life in the North as Saigon experiences what may be its final days under an anti-Communist government.