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Swiss Ban Viet Gold

BERN, Switzerland, April 29 (AP)—The Swiss government announced a ban today on "import or depositing" in Switzerland of any gold shipped out of South Vietnam or Cambodia and formally waived bank secrecy rules to permit the ban to be carried out.

The move came in the wake of rumors that top officials of the fallen government had shipped tons of gold, maybe as much as \$160 million worth, to neutral Switzerland.

A London newspaper claimed last week that former South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu was trying to ship out more than \$70 million in gold. Government spokesman Walter Buser said he saw no evidence to support these rumors.

Swiss sources said several international airlines were contacted last month to fly 16 tons of gold from Saigon to Switzerland but that all companies declined the offer.
