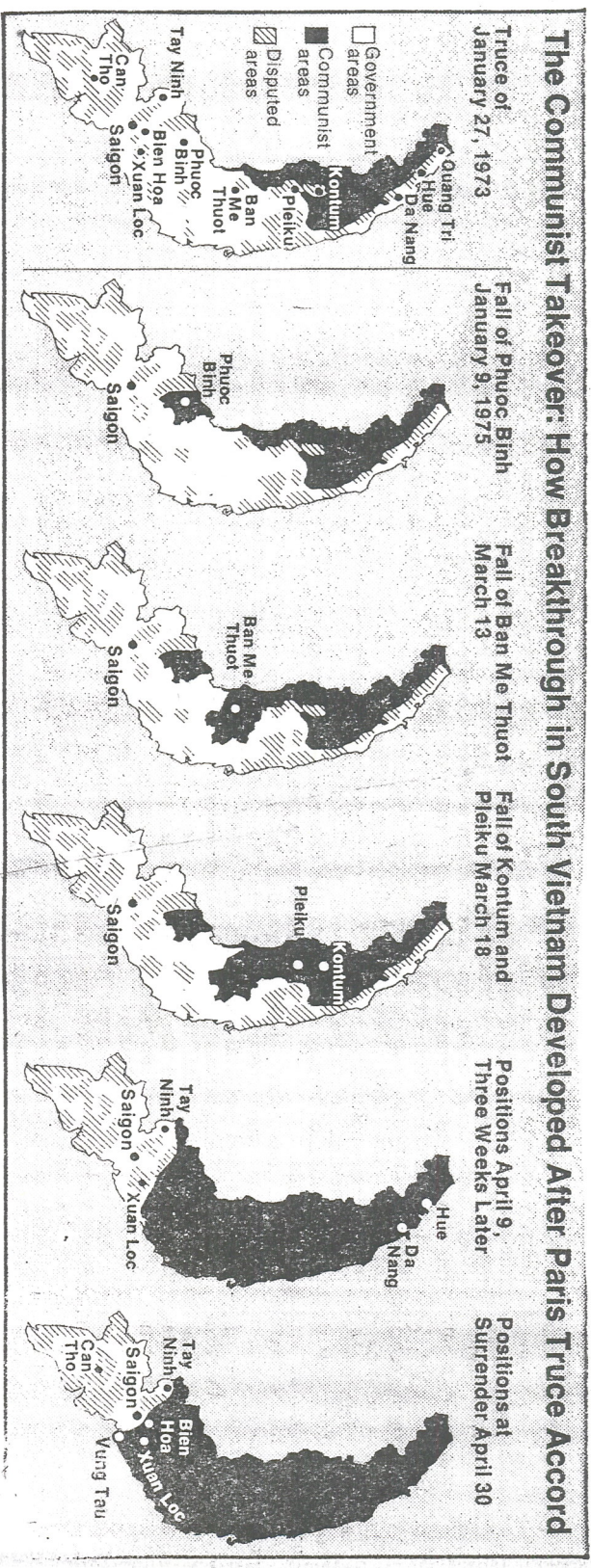


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The Communist Takeover: How Breakthrough in South Vietnam Developed After Paris Truce Accord



Though fighting continued intermittently after the 1973 truce accord, the first major Communist gain came on Jan. 9, 1975, with the capture of Phuoc Binh, capital of Phuoc Long Province. The loss of Ban Me Thuot in March triggered Saigon's decision to withdraw from the Central High-

lands towns of Kontum and Pleiku as well. A rout followed, with the loss in three weeks of Hue and Da Nang, in the north, and of other cities along coast all the way down to Saigon's approaches. Saigon troops made a two-week stand at Xuan Loc, 38 miles from capital, before the surrender.

The New York Times/May 1, 1975