

SAIGON'S MISSION TO THE U.N. CLOSES

NYTimes MAY 1 1975
Staff Had Observer Status

—Cambodian Office Shuts
Without Announcement

By KATHLEEN TELTSCH

Special to The New York Times

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 30—The office of South Vietnam's observer mission to the United Nations and Consulate General closed today.

The closing of the office at 866 United Nations Plaza was announced in a one-sentence press release. The press representative, Mrs. Yen Chi, said it would not reopen.

Cambodia's Mission to the United Nations closed last night without even an announcement. However, the Chinese press agency, Hsinhua, said that it had received word from Phnom Penh today that the new Cambodian administration was taking over Cambodia's seat in the United Nations. The United Nations authorities had not received official word, but the move had been expected since the new regime took control.

A spokesman for the United States delegation said that Cambodian and South Vietnamese officials would have no difficulty in adjusting their immigration status if they chose to remain here.

Cambodia has been a member of the United Nations since 1955. Last year the Government headed by President Lon Nol narrowly defeated a campaign led by China to expel it in favor of the Communist-led insurgents who have now taken control.

South Vietnam is not a member of the United Nations but has had a diplomatic office here since 1952.

Confidence Shaken

Few diplomats here would comment publicly on the developments in Vietnam. One who did was Louis de Guiringaud, France's chief delegate, who said that one lesson to be learned from the collapse of the Saigon Government was that foreign assistance was not sufficient unless there was a "will to fight and something for which to fight."

Asked at a press luncheon if the Vietnam events had weakened the credibility of United States guarantees for Israel, he replied:

"There is no credibility to guarantee unless the guaranteed people want to fight for themselves and have some idea for which they will fight. This did not exist in Indochina but does exist in Israel."

If discipline and a goal to defend are lacking, Mr. Guiringaud asserted, no one else can supply them no matter what arms or foreign aid is given. "That is the lesson of Vietnam," he declared.

A number of Asian diplomats here said that the Vietnamese experience had shaken their confidence in President Ford's Administration. "A pledge of support from the President is meaningless, an empty commitment because no one can be sure Congress will fulfill the promise of help," remarked one diplomat who in the past has been a staunch supporter of the United States.

The refusal of Congress to approve additional military help for Saigon was "the worst case of desertion," he declared. He predicted that in the future Asians "would be more realistic."

Another diplomat maintained that the United States had extricated itself "from a war it could not win" and was in a healthier position militarily and politically. He expressed confidence that security treaties with South Korea and Japan were not in jeopardy and said he hoped that "the United States would be more careful in committing itself in the future."