

VC Tighten Control Over S. Vietnam

From News Dispatches

SAIGON, May 1 — South Vietnam's new rulers tightened their control of the country Thursday, issuing a series of announcements and bans. They also proclaimed the entire national territory "liberated," despite evidence that they were still encountering some pockets of resistance in the Mekong Delta and Cholon, Saigon's Chinatown.

Normal telephone and telegraph communications were cut off. Most news reports of what was happening in the city, which were sparse, came via diplomatic communications, chiefly French and Japanese.

Publication of all privately owned newspapers, magazine and other printed material was "temporarily" suspended, as was distribution of anything already published without the authorization of the capital's Military Management Committee.

That order was the only "temporary" ban.

"Strictly forbidden" were "all activities of houses of prostitution, dance halls, smoking dens and all decadent slave cultural activities of the American variety."

Virtually all businesses and industries were nationalized, according to the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina, including banks, private transportation facilities, U.S. companies and property belonging to officials of the former government.

The decree of the new Military Management Committee, an anonymous body that some observers felt might foreshadow a collective leadership for South Vietnam, listed as crimes that will be "severely punished": "collecting intelligence, creating armed disturbances, harming revolutionary cadres or soldiers

carrying out psychological warfare, spreading false rumors, coercing the people to flee with the enemy . . . or sabotaging the implementation of the policies and stipulations of the revolutionary administration."

Unauthorized weapons and explosives were ordered turned in to the new authorities. The new government proclaimed its intention of retrieving documents and property of the former government, "including the gold, ships, planes and other properties taken abroad by

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officers of the puppet administration."

The Foreign Ministry charged that "dozens of tons of gold" had been stolen and taken from the country, and warned that this "must be returned."

Diplomats and other officials of the Thieu government were told to "remain at their posts and await new orders."

"Anyone who knows where U.S. imperialism and the

predominantly Chinese "sister city" of Cholon.

Diplomatic relations with countries that had been friendly with the previous government were declared broken. Nevertheless, North Vietnam's Premier Pham Van Dong, at a rally in Hanoi, offered "greetings of peace and friendship to the American people," without referring to the American defeat in Vietnam or to the U.S. government.

Both North Vietnam and the new government in Saigon protested the continued presence of American ships off the Vietnamese coast. They said the ships were part of a "forced evacuation" of South Vietnam.

Pham Van Dong made it clear that reunification of all of Vietnam "under one roof," in the words of North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh, remains the goal of Hanoi.

"Our fatherland will certainly be reunified," he said. "Our fellow countrymen in the South and in the North will certainly be reunited under the same roof."

He also pledged to establish normal relations with Southeast Asian countries.

"Millions and millions" of people poured into the street in the North Vietnamese capital to celebrate the "great victory of the nation," Radio Hanoi said.

In Saigon, a large parade of several thousand persons was reported. Government offices were reopened and Vietcong troops reportedly

Saigon administration hid documents, files, property and technical means has duty to notify the revolutionary administration or security organs," a committee communique said.

Diplomatic sources in Saigon said that the radio was broadcasting appeals in Cantho, the largest city in the Mekong Delta, to three South Vietnamese divisions to surrender, and that fighting was still reported in Saigon's

patrolled the streets unarmed.

Women reporting for work in offices wore the traditional ao dai, a long dress over pants, evidently fearing that the new authorities would frown on Western dress, Japanese news agencies reported.

Street stalls and some shops reopened, although gasoline was reported to be scarce.

The May Day parades started from several points in the Saigon city center. Banners said "Welcome the Day of Liberation of the Motherland." About 3,000 workers and students visited the presidential palace, where a huge Vietcong flag flew and a large military unit with tanks, rocket launchers and field guns were drawn up in what one observer said looked "like an arms exhibition."

Soldiers, patrolling in pairs or small groups, chatted with the people on the streets. There was no looting and no gunfire was heard except intermittently in Cholon.

Although American and other newsmen were not able to file except through embassies, they indicated that foreigners were being well treated.

The French ambassador also cabled that the armed forces had been instructed "to respect and protect foreigners," and said, "as far as we know, all foreigners are being treated well."