

Asian Communists Cheer Take-Over

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Japan Looking to Trade; Some Extend Recognition

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HONG KONG, May 1—Peking and other Communist capitals in Asia made the "liberation" of Saigon a dominant theme of their traditional May Day celebration today, while the rest of the region warily pondered its implications.

Whether it was hailed or accepted with resignation, the conclusion of the 30-year war in Vietnam was widely viewed as a milestone marking the end of a long era of Western domination.

"The war in Vietnam has been in every way a war of national emancipation," declared an editorial in Asahi Shimbun, one of Japan's national newspapers. "The age in which any great power can suppress indefinitely the rise of nationalism has come to an end."

Peking More Militant

A similar conclusion in more militant terms was drawn by the newspaper of the Chinese Communist party, Jenmin Jih Pao. The defeat of "the Saigon puppet regime," it asserted in a May Day editorial, was "an impressive song of victory of people's war and a glorious example of a small country resisting and defeating aggression by a big imperialist power."

Firecrackers were set off as Deputy Premier Teng Hsiaoping and Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua paid calls at the embassies of North Vietnam and the Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam to present copies of a message of congratulations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung hailing the start of "a new era, the era of the liberation of Vietnam."

The 81-year-old Chairman, who made his last public appearance on May 1, was once again remained behind the walls of his residential compound adjacent to the Forbidden City.

Improvisation Needed

In the parks and thoroughfares of the Chinese capital

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in Saigon as Others

Ponder the Implications

there were streamers and performances of songs to mark the Communist victory in Cambodia. But celebrations of the Communist triumph in South Vietnam had to be improvised, for there had been no time for formal preparations.

Chinese pronouncements stressed the inadequacy of the advanced weaponry and anti-insurgency doctrines that "the United States aggressors and their lackeys" had employed. "No up-to-date weapons can save imperialism and the reactionaries," Jenmin Jih Pao declared.

Privately Chinese officials did not appear to be gloating over the American defeat. A dispatch from Peking to the Times of London reported that CBina still believed the United States could play a positive role in Asia and had no objection to close relations between the United States and Japan.

Hsinhua, the official press agency, rerorted with apparent approval President Ford's statement that the American evacuation from South Vietnam "closes a chapter." It also highlighted a remark by Secretary Kissinger that the United States "must be very careful of the commitments we make," but "should scrupulously honor those commitments."

Commitment to Pek The Chinese want the United States to fulfill a major commitment, made at the time of President Richard M. Nixon's visit three years ago, to extend full diplomatic recognition to Peking. The United States then promised to withdraw its forces from Taiwan "as tension in the area diminishes." The Chinese can now be expected to say that the end of the war in Indochina leaves Washington with no further excuse for deferring the fulfillment of that pledge.

In Taipei, the seat of the Nationalist Government on Taiwan, the opposite conclusion was drawn. The general theme was that the Communist triumph in South Vietnam had demonstrated the futility of negotiations with Communists. The Central News Daily, the ruling Kuomintang, welcomed the promise of a new American policy for Asia, expressing the hope that it would be based on the principle of "no more retreats."

Park Is Sarcastic

The prospect that the collapse of the American-backed government in Saigon would provoke other Southeast Asian regimes to seek accommodations with Peking and Hanoi was taken, paradoxically, by some Taiwanese as an encouraging sign. The only way for Washington to deflect that trend, they contended, would be to reassert its old commitments in the region.

A Nationalist official said the United States would have to draw a new defense line in Asia from South Korea to Taiwan and the Philippines to reassure Japan.

In Seoul, President Park Chung Hee of South Korea found justification in the fall of Saigon for his suppression of opposition and dissent. At a luncheon with cabinet ministers, he asked sarcastically whether the opposition that had sought to oust President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam would continue now to campaign for freedom and

human rights under Communist rule.

Kim Young Sam, the South Korean opposition leader, attributed the failure of the Saigon regime not to its opponents but to dictatorship and corruption. He called it a "tragedy of tragedies."

Among non-Communist

governments in Asia, those of Taiwan and South Korea seemed to be the only ones that were not talking of reassessing their policies and their relations with the United States. In many instances, the reassessments seemed to be based on an expectation that the United States itself would be reviewing its commitments, rather than on any fundamental desire for change.

In Tokyo, a Foreign Ministry official observed that the United States was plainly overextended in its commitments in Asia.

"Japan, too, must rectify her position of having relied excessively on the United States," he said.

Echoing President Ford, Foreign Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said yesterday:

"A chapter in Japan's Asian policy has been closed as a result of the American setback in Indochina."

He said the reassessment would not be hasty, and Government sources indicated that Tokyo would be seeking reassurance on the American security guarantee even as it groped for a more independent posture in Southeast Asia.

The influence in the region of both China and Japan can be expected to increase, the sources predicted, as American influence wanes. Japan was said to be ready to recognize the new authorities in Saigon, but there was no indication when this would happen.

Japan Looks to Trade

Trading companies in Tokyo were already advocating diplomatic recognition for the new government in hopes that this would clear the way for a settlement of South Vietnamese debts to Japan. In business circles generally, hope was expressed that Japanese industry could play a role in the economic reconstruction of South Vietnam.

India and Laos became the first two governments in Asia to extend diplomatic recognition to the new Government in Saigon. In New Delhi, the news of the surrender was greeted with cheers and thumping of desks in both Houses of Parliament.

Subramaniam Swamy, leader of the militantly nationalist Jan Sangh, described the outcome of the war as a victory of nationalism over imperialism. Bhupesh Gupta of the pro-Moscow Communist party of India, said "the Americans are running away like rats from Saigon."

In Kingston, Jamaica, at a conference of Commonwealth leaders, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India said the United States had underestimated the force of nationalism. She urged that a message of greetings be sent from the conference to the new government in Saigon.

Malaysia Sees Cooperation

Also in Kingston, Prime Minister Abdul Razak of Malaysia expressed relief that the bloodshed had stopped. He said the triumph of the insurgents might "give some encouragement to the terrorists lurking in our jungles," but he stressed his hope that the Communist regimes in Indochina would cooperate with other governments in the region.

Mr. Razak's government has actively promoted the idea of having the whole of Southeast Asia, including Indochina, proclaimed a "zone of peace, freedom and neutrality." Last year Malaysia became the first of the five member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to establish diplomatic relations with Peking.

This has not deterred the Chinese Communist party from continuing to extend at least rhetorical support to Communist insurgents in Malaysia.

Reports from Kuala Lumpur said Malaysia would declare her formal recognition of the Revolutionary Government in Saigon tomorrow.

Meantime, in Bangkok, Foreign Minister Chatichai Choonhavan of Thailand said he was calling a meeting of the Southeast Asian alliance, which also includes Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines, in hopes of arranging a joint recognition of the new Saigon government.