

NYTimes  
**Moscow Applauds  
Victors in Vietnam**

**In Restrained Tone**

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By JAMES F. CLARITY

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MOSCOW, May 1—The Soviet leadership congratulated the Vietnamese Communists today on the "liberation of practically all the territory of South Vietnam including Saigon."

The text of the message was issued tonight, more than a full day after news of the fall of Saigon became widely known in Moscow. There was no official indication of why the Soviet Union took so long to hail the victory it had called for with enthusiasm for years.

The Government-controlled press, radio and television have been reporting recent Vietnam events in a low-key manner.

The message, signed by the Communist party leader, Leonid I. Bhezhnev, Premier Aleksei N. Kosygin and President Nikolai V. Podgorny, did not mention the United States role in Vietnam.

**Ford Not Linked to Vietnam**

The American evacuation of Vietnamese and the Pentagon's proposals for more military aid to Saigon have been assailed, but President Ford and his Administration have barely been mentioned in connection with Vietnam.

Western diplomats feel that the Soviet reluctance to chide the United States is based on the Kremlin's desire for improved relations with the Ford Administration.

Today, at the May Day parade, American astronauts were prominently shown in attendance at Red Square and there was ample television comment about the cooperation between the United States and the Soviet Union in space.

The Soviet leaders' message, according to Tass, the official press agency, was sent to Nguyen Huu Tho, identified as chairman of the Central Committee of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front.