



Hanoi transmitted this photo taken after the surrender Wednesday showing the Viet Cong flag flying over the Presidential Palace in Saigon and Russian-made tanks in position outside AP Wirephoto

'Minh Waiting Impatiently'

Saigon's Surrender

Hanoi

South Vietnam's former president, Duong Van (Big) Minh, told a high-ranking North Vietnamese officer he had been "waiting impatiently for you to arrive" when Communist forces reached Saigon's presidential palace on the day of the city's surrender.

Colonel Bui Tin, who served as North Vietnamese spokesman in Saigon on a four-power military commission after the 1973 Paris cease-fire agreement, gave this account of Minh's surrender this week in a dispatch yesterday in the North

Vietnamese Army newspaper Quan Doi Nhan Dan.

Tin said he entered the palace at 12:30 p.m. on April 30 and found Minh, Vice President Nguyen Van Huynh and Foreign Minister Vu Van Mau in the council chamber. "All three sat very stiffly in their big armchairs, guarded by two revolutionary soldiers," Tin wrote.

After the president told them he had been waiting since morning to hand over power, a high-ranking officer accompanying Tin replied: "All power. From top

to bottom. It is the revolution which has recovered power through its offensives and its uprisings. The army and the administration have completely collapsed."

Tin said the officer went on: "You cannot hand over something that slips through your hands. You must surrender right now."

After a long silence, Tin wrote, "We told them to instructions of the revolutionary government. They obeyed."

Tin added that the three South Vietnamese leaders "were happy first of all be-

cause they and their families were safe and sound. They told us they had found a large quantity of gold that (former President Nguyen Van Thieu had not been able to take with him when he fled."

Tin wrote that the menu for that evening's dinner was found in a drawer in the president's desk.

"The dinner would never take place. That night they would dine on a soldier's field rations: rice and canned meat that the revolutionary government gave them."

Agence France-Presse