

Thai Aide Calls U.S. Immoral Ties Strained By Saigon's Plane Demand

From News Dispatches

Thailand's foreign minister angrily denounced the United States as a country without morals Friday and vowed to expel all American servicemen within a year as scheduled.

Responding to remarks made Thursday in Washington by Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger about the U.S. "obligation of a moral nature" to defend Thailand, Thai Foreign Minister Chartichai Choonhavan said sarcastically in Bangkok:

"Moral? The United States does not have any morals at this point. They have already pulled out from Cambodia and South Vietnam, so we are going to have to depend on ourselves."

U.S.-Thai relations were likely to be further strained by the demand reiterated Friday in Hanoi and Saigon that "stolen property" including aircraft, ships and gold taken by fleeing South Vietnamese refugees be returned to South Vietnam.

The demand, issued by North Vietnam and the new Vietcong government in Saigon, seemed to be aimed particularly at Thailand, where 129 South Vietnamese warplanes and other aircraft landed early this week during the Communist takeover of Saigon.

Thai Prime Minister Kuk-

rit Pramroj said that the planes would be returned to the new Saigon government, but Schlesinger said the U.S.-made planes still belong to the United States under military aid agreements.

Chartichai soft-pedaled the prime minister's statement about the planes. "This a very sensitive subject," he said. "According to the law they belong to us at the moment, but we will have to look into the commitments between the United States and Vietnam."

Thai Defense Minister Pramarn Adireksarn said earlier that the planes cannot be handed over to the Vietcong because documentary evidence shows they belong to the United States. "They must be taken out of Thailand by the Americans themselves," he said. "We cannot return them to the Vietcong."

In his news conference Friday, however, Chartichai contradicted Schlesinger's reference to a U.S. "residual force" remaining in Thailand. "We will carry on the withdrawal and they [the American soldiers] will all be totally gone within one year as stated in our policy and approved by the Parliament," he said. "We insist on doing it."

Meanwhile, normal communications with Saigon were out for the third

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straight day, and there were no direct reports from news agencies. Radio broadcasts monitored in Bangkok, however, told of rapid developments in the South Vietnamese capital aimed at reorganizing the nation into a Communist state.

Saigon's citizenry was urged by the Vietcong's Liberation Radio to participate in a week long cleanup campaign to remove what a broadcast called "dirty garbage left over by the former government."

Citizens and soldiers were asked to throw away old

flags, posters and pictures of former officials, to raise Vietcong flags and revolutionary mottos over streets, houses and buildings and to clear garbage and dirt from the streets and canals.

"Everyone must obey all orders given by the Revolutionary Government because we have a new city, a progressive and revolutionized city," said the broadcast.

Reuter correspondent Bernard Edinger, in Saigon, reported the city was calm.

A brief message from the French-born correspondent—one of three Reuter reporters in the South Vietnamese capital—said he and his colleagues were "safe and working in a relaxed atmosphere," but that they were unable to file news stories because normal communications were broken.

Some correspondents have been able to get some messages and brief dispatches out of Saigon through diplomatic channels of communication.

Diplomatic sources in Bangkok, in radio contact with Saigon, said that all the French nationals who remained in Saigon when the Vietcong took over are safe and well.

Many were said to be living in two centers set up by the embassy at a hospital and a high school where there were supplies of food and medicine. Others were said to have continued living at home without difficulty.

The radio also broadcast a third possible name for the capital of South Vietnam. The Communist leaders had first said Saigon would be renamed Ho Chi Minh City to honor the late Vietnamese revolutionary. Later a hyphenated form of both was suggested—"Saigon-Ho

Chi Minh." A broadcast Friday told the capital's inhabitants that the city has been renamed "Uncle Ho the Great."

Diplomatic sources in Bangkok said that the new government is expected to issue entry visas within a week to diplomats representing countries with which it has relations.

Observers believe that such action could mean the restoration of air transport between Saigon and the rest of the world.

In New York, an official of the United Nations said that eight officials of the organization who remained in Saigon were continuing to channel aid from the U.N. Children's Fund and the High Commissioner for Ref-

ugees through the Vietnamese Red Cross.

Diplomats and their families base in Laos inland to ~~cent~~ the former Saigon government have applied for political asylum in the United States, a spokesman for the diplomats said in Bangkok.

The diplomats were told their request would be for-

warded to Washington, he added.

Hanoi's Vietnam News Agency Friday broadcast what happened when Communist forces seized the Presidential Palace in Saigon Wednesday.

Hanoi's Vietnam News Agency said the recently installed President Duong Van (Big) Minh and other South Vietnamese leaders were waiting, seated in two rows of chairs.

"Gen. Minh stood up and said: 'The revolution has come. You have come. We have been waiting for you since morning to arrange to hand over power,'" it said.

"In a gentle yet firm voice the Liberation Army officer replied: 'Now that the revolution has seized complete

power, the former administration has been overthrown. No one can hand over what they have lost.'"

Agence France-Presse reported that the menu for the evening meal was found in a drawer in Minh's desk.

The Vietcong captors then ordered that the defeated authorities should be fed like an army in the field on rice and canned meat.