

Hanoi opens border

Examiner News Services

North Vietnam has opened its border to South Vietnamese for the first time since the division of the country in 1954 and has launched a reconstruction program that includes building new highways linking North and

South, Saigon broadcasts said yesterday.

The broadcasts added that the reconstruction program would give more jobs to the Southerners but would mean all Vietnamese would have to work longer hours.

A Hanoi broadcast said

the first aircraft of the Revolutionary Government had landed in Saigon and was welcomed by the "liberation force," indicating that at least some top officials of the new regime, believed to have been in Da Nang and North Vietnam, may now be in the Southern capital —

to South

now renamed Ho Chi Minh City.

Ever since Saigon's capitulation last Wednesday, a series of broadcasts from inside South Vietnam have indicated a wholesale reorganization of the country. Western newsmen still in Saigon

have not been able to file dispatches and the broadcasts have become the sole source of news from the capital.

Soldiers of the defeated military forces were ordered to register with the govern-

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ment or face punishment, and people's committees were being formed to guard property throughout the country, the broadcasts said. Owners of ships and boats were told to report to a new transport office.

The Soviet news agency Tass, reporting from Hanoi, said people in Saigon were scrubbing Thieu-era slogans and posters off walls. It reiterated previous reports of a general cleanup campaign in the city.

Radio Hanoi announced that North Vietnam joined the new South Vietnamese government in sending diplomatic notes to Thailand reiterating the Revolutionary Government's demand for the return — "for the sake of peace" — of all planes and warships used by South Vietnamese in fleeing

last week. Hanoi said it was appealing to Bangkok for the return of the aircraft and vessels in the interest of normalizing relations between Thailand and North Vietnam.

Most of the planes were supplied to the South Vietnamese by the United States, which is claiming reversion ownership of them. Thailand at first said it would return the planes to Vietnam but later said they were the responsibility of the United States.

The Hanoi broadcast said the new South Vietnamese government also sent similar notes to Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Meanwhile, the French Foreign Ministry said two French journalists, who disappeared almost a week ago during the fall of Saigon, were still missing yesterday.

They were identified as Michael Laurent of the Gamma Photographic Agency and Christian Hoche of the newspaper Le Figaro.

The National Liberation Front radio in Saigon, describing Hanoi's reconstruction program, said the North Vietnamese government was building more hotels to accommodate people in the South who wish to visit Hanoi and other northern cities.

The broadcast said Vietnamese people would have to work more hours each day to catch up with the reconstruction program for Vietnam.

The night clubs, massage parlors and other such entertainments largely used by foreigners and once a feature of life in Saigon have been abolished, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported from Hanoi.