

SAIGON SAYS CITY IS NORMAL AGAIN

NY Times

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Reports Civilians Returning,
Markets Crowded and
Telephones Operating

HONG KONG, Wednesday, May 7 (Agence France-Presse)—The Saigon radio said yesterday that life had returned to normal in the South Vietnamese capital, with telephone lines functioning as before and well-stocked markets crowded with shoppers.

Thousands of Saigonese who had fled the city last week when the Communists took over were now said to be returning by bus.

Meanwhile, preparations were reported under way to celebrate the victory of the revolution.

Teachers belonging to patriotic associations were asked to meet yesterday afternoon to arrange a reception at which civilian and military leaders would presumably be presented to the people. Students were scheduled to meet last night.

It appeared that the celebration might be held some time today, one week after the city was surrendered to the Communists.

The radio said workers were busy at their jobs, noting that this was especially the case at the Sicovina textile factory, which has 1,000 employees.

Saigon bookstore owners were said to have tossed out all books that were regarded as useless or offensive.

Television Resumes

Among the indications that life had returned to normal, the radio said, was that a television station in the capital resumed operation Friday. In addition, an official newspaper published its first issue last Sunday.

A new administrative and moral order was reportedly being established in Saigon through the mobilization of volunteers, divided into several groups.

Medical aid was reported be-

ing handled by a group of 100 people, among them doctors and nurses.

Two groups of 50 volunteers each were said to be responsible for public order, while 120 people, divided into 17 teams, wearing civilian clothes and red armbands and carrying guns, were reported directing traffic.

The radio also mentioned a weapons reception group, staffed by 23 volunteers. They were said to have collected or requisitioned 4,323 guns of all kinds and undetermined quantities of grenades and ammunition.

Still another group of volunteers was said to be assigned to the distribution of revolutionary propaganda.

For the first time mention was made in a Vietnamese Communist broadcast of activities of Western journalists still in the city. They were said to have been present at Tan Son Nhut airport Friday to watch the first plane with the insignia of the Revolutionary Government to land there.

However, Western newsmen who last filed dispatches from Saigon last Wednesday, the day of the surrender, continued to be forbidden to send news out.

Broadcasts from both Saigon and Hanoi yesterday said a total of 13 South Vietnamese islands from the Gulf of Tonkin to the Gulf of Siam had been "liberated" in recent days, among them the prison islands of Son and Phu Quoc.

Some of the islands were in the Spratly group 200 miles or more east of the southern part of South Vietnam. But there was no mention of the Paracel Islands, which are east of Da Nang. This archipelago was occupied by Chinese forces in 1974 after brief fighting with South Vietnamese troops.

News Blackout May End

PARIS, May 6 (UPI)—Officials of the Revolutionary Government's mission here said today that foreign newsmen would soon be permitted to file dispatches from Saigon again.