

PRG Seeks U.S. Aid for War Repairs

From News Dispatches

The Provisional Revolutionary Government in South Vietnam has called on the United States to help reconstruct its war-ravaged country, saying it is "the responsibility of America to help (repair) the damage they caused in Vietnam."

"I'm talking about material help," said Mrs. Pham Thi Minh, a member of the Paris Vietcong delegation, speaking in London Wednesday about South Vietnam's reconstruction. But, she added, it would be for the PRG to decide whether U.S. personnel would be admit-

ted to administer the aid. "This is certainly not envisioned," she added.

The United States said it would consider requests for humanitarian aid to South Vietnam but would not help rebuild North Vietnam's economy.

The United States, said Clarence Ferguson, the U.S. representative at the U.N. Economic and Social Council, "does not favor provision of American assistance for rebuilding the infrastructure of North Vietnam."

But he said the United States would "examine with

great care" requests for humanitarian aid to South Vietnam.

A U.N. spokesman said the new Saigon government already has asked the United Nations for emergency aid supplies, including food, vitamins, medicines and medical equipment, shelter materials, and material for clothing.

The U.N. official said lists of requested aid had been handed over in Hanoi and sent to the U.N. Children's Fund, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and to Ray-

mond Aubrac, special representative in Hanoi for Secretary General Kurt Waldheim.

In Saigon, meanwhile, Gen. Tran Van Tra, chairman of the 11-man Military Management Committee currently governing the city, told journalists at his first press conference Thursday that the Soviet Union and China are already supplying food to South Vietnam.

He said the revolutionary authorities were "very thankful" for their "kindly and active support."

Tra greeted about 135 for-
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ign and local journalists at the Presidential Palace, promising them that the Saigon Communist government guarantees their safety and the opportunity to work in "favorable conditions," the Vietcong's Gia Phong press agency said.

"The Military Management Committee will undertake to ensure the safety and create favorable conditions for foreign media people in Saigon to carry on their activities," the agency quoted Tra as saying.

"I recall I have met some of you here in Saigon . . . in different circumstances," Tra told reporters. Before the fall of Saigon, Tra had been restricted to a small camp at Tansonnhut air base as a member of the Joint Military Commission.

The Gia Phong agency said Tra accused the United States of forcing the evacuation of South Vietnamese adults and children last month. "There were numerous cases of forcible evacuation of adults and forcible abduction of children," Tra said, according to the agency. "The United States odiously whipped up stories of 'bloodbath' in Saigon in a bid to force many Vietnamese to flee to foreign countries."

In a broadcast on Gia Phong radio monitored in Singapore Wednesday night, a Vietcong statement said: "According to reports from Western news agencies, there are at present 80,000 South Vietnamese being forcibly evacuated and who are suffering miserably — and their lives are in danger."

The statement said that many vessels sent out SOS messages on May 2, saying that about 200 Vietnamese children were completely exhausted and would die of starvation. Another report said 4,000 lives were in jeopardy.

In his news conference, Tra acknowledged that the new military government faced problems in establishing a new administration in South Vietnam. "But these difficulties are not considerable in comparison with those in 30 years of war," Tra said, according to the Saigon radio text of his remarks.

News reports from Saigon, permitted Wednesday for the first time since the city's fall eight days ago, continued to describe life in the city as normal and quiet. "I saw no bloodbath," said AP correspondent George Esper.

The North Vietnamese news agency in Hong Kong said Thursday that a South Vietnamese naval force of 27 ships with admiral and high-ranking officers had surrendered to the Vietcong.