

Curbs Put on Foreigners in Saigon

The Military Management Committee running the Saigon area outlined a series of regulations yesterday requiring foreigners, including diplomats, to register with the new authorities.

The committee's communique, broadcast on Giai Phong Radio, stressed that foreigners could continue to work in the Saigon area and retain their rights and property only if they respected all government and Military Management Committee communiques, as well as the morals and manners of South Vietnam.

The communique on the activities of foreigners, and an accompanying order on the use of currency by all South Vietnamese, are signs that the new government in South Vietnam is beginning to assert itself.

The communique said that all diplomats should report to the External Service Committee of the Military Administrative Committee starting today. The diplomats, as well as all foreign journalists, were told to bring their identifying documents and five pictures.

Foreigners who are neither diplomats nor journalists were told to register with the management committee's Internal Service Committee.

Foreigners were banned from holding arms, ammunition, radio transmitters or drugs. Embassies were told to get special permission to use their transmitters.

All foreigners who register are to have freedom of movement within the Saigon area but will be barred from visiting military installations and must get special permission "to leave their

domicile"—apparently meaning to travel outside the Saigon area.

The Military Management Committee also laid down strict rules on currency, saying in a communique that the South Vietnamese currency used by the old government is the only legal tender and that all transactions must be by cash.

Use of other currencies—such as the U.S. dollar and, by implication, North Vietnamese currency—were strictly forbidden.

There was feverish activity in the last days of the old government to change South Vietnamese piasters into dollars and gold. There also have been reports of North Vietnamese currency showing up on the Saigon black market.

The communique said banks are to remain closed for the time being and all transactions would be controlled by a governmental banking committee. Only this banking committee was authorized to carry out exchange transactions.

The currency regulations also banned private sales of checks and money orders, gold and precious stones.

Interspersed with these announcements on the radio—and some new programming including songs by children—were other communiques indicating that the Military Management Committee is beginning to organize the new structure of life in Saigon.

One announced the establishment of a committee to govern the bus depot serving the densely populated Mekong Delta region. The radio said the committee would set fares for the

700 buses using the depot, the biggest in the country.

Another called on all owners of printing plants and related companies to register with the management committee and present an inventory of machinery, lists of personnel and estimates of potential production.

Meanwhile, the Youth and Students Federation of Saigon appealed for more volunteers to provide security for the city, take part in revolutionary cultural programs and clean up the streets, a broadcast reported.

In a development that could affect international air traffic, the North Vietnamese news agency said the Provisional Revolutionary Government had barred flights of foreign aircraft without prior permission and warned that it would take "necessary measures" against violators.

Most international flights from Japan or Hong Kong to Bangkok and on to the Middle East and Europe fly over Vietnam. Rerouting would require several hundred additional miles.

In other developments yesterday:

North Vietnam criticized Thailand for what it called "double-dealing" on the issue of military aircraft flown to Thailand by former Saigon government pilots.

The North Vietnam News Agency, quoting a commentary from Hanoi's official daily newspaper Nhan Dan, said:

"The U.S. and Thai authorities have employed some dirty tricks in this affair and there is no question that there has been a crooked arrangement be

tween the ruling circles in the U.S. and Thailand to usurp property of the Vietnamese people."

More than a hundred planes flown into Thailand by South Vietnamese pilots have been recovered by the United States.

• Hanoi reported the successful completion of a bridge across the Benahi River, boundary between North and South Vietnam. Buses were reported traveling the 1,000-mile route between Saigon and Hanoi and commuter trains were said to be running into Saigon.

• Radio Hanoi said the collapse of American-backed governments in South Vietnam and Cambodia has ended U.S. influence throughout the world and will lead to a period of "de-Americanization" in Asia.