

Saigon Prohibits Checks And All Foreign Currency

NYTimes

By Agence France-Presse

MAY 10 1975

HONG KONG, May 9—The military administrative committee running the Saigon area unveiled a cash-only economy for South Vietnam today and issued a series of orders to foreigners including diplomats, the Saigon radio reported.

In a broadcast monitored here, the radio said that the South Vietnamese currency used by the old regime was the only legal tender and that checks were banned.

The use of other currencies—such as the American dollar and by implication North Vietnamese currency—were forbidden.

Banks to Stay Closed

Banks are to remain closed for the time being, the radio said, and all transactions by banks would be overseen by a government banking committee.

Normal communication with

Saigon remained cut for the second day, and the Saigon radio was the only source of information on activities in the city.

The radio reported that the military committee had issued detailed instructions on the registration of foreigners, including diplomats.

Embassies were told that they would have to obtain permission to use their radio transmitting sets, one broadcast said.

Drugs Outlawed

In its rules for foreigners the military committee outlawed the use of drugs and said that they should be handed in.

It said that the registration of foreigners should start tomorrow and be completed by May 25.

The currency regulations also

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banned the private sale of foreign currency, checks and money orders, gold, precious stones and other negotiable instruments, the radio added.

In the closing days of the last regime dealings in dollars and old had been hectic. As Communist forces closed on the capital, the private exchange rocketed from 700 piasters to the dollar to as much as 3,000 piasters to the dollar.

The military committee ruled that people holding foreign currencies or negotiable instruments other than South Vietnamese currency should contact the banking committee, which has sole authority to carry out exchange operations.

The currency moves, the radio stressed, were aimed at protecting the nation's assets and at avoiding disorder.

Reminder to Foreigners

The military committee's communique on foreigners stressed that they could continue to work in the area and retain their rights and property only if they respected all Government and committee communiques as well as "the morals and manners" of South Vietnam.

The communique said that foreigners were forbidden to help, aid or protect spies or any other persons who opposed the Government.

It said that all diplomats should present themselves with documents and five identity pictures to the external service committee. Journalists also had to register.

Foreigners who were neither diplomats nor journalists had to register with the internal security committee.

All foreigners who registered would have freedom of movement in the Saigon area but were barred from visiting military installations.

The communique said that the foreigners had to obtain special permission from military authorities if they wanted to leave their domicile or travel to the airport.

Foreigners were told they

must hand in all arms, ammunition, radio transmitters and drugs within the next three days.

Foreign missions would be able to use their radio equipment only after they had obtained permission from the military authorities.

All afternoon the radio repeated the currency instructions, stressing that only piasters could be used.

On the transport front, the radio reported that bus owners and their employes at the busy depot serving the densely populated Mekong delta had set up a provisional committee to run the depot and stabilize fares.

Another communique called on all owners of printing works, photocopying concerns and companies in allied trades

to register and present a full inventory of their machinery, lists of personnel and facts about potential production.

Hanoi Assails Bangkok

HONG KONG, May 9 (Reuters)—North Vietnam today vigorously criticized Thailand for what it described as "double-dealing" on the issue of military aircraft flown to Thailand by pilots of the old Saigon regime. The North Vietnamese agency, quoting the official Hanoi daily 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 between the ruling circles in the U.S. and Thailand to usurp property of the Vietnamese people."