

Vietcong Set 'Re-Education' Of Ex-Officers

From News Dispatches

Extensive 'ree-ducation courses' have been established for senior military officers of the former pro-American government in South Vietnam, according to a dispatch from Saigon by Alan Dawson of United Press International.

While no such courses have been ordered in Saigon itself, Dawson said, travel-the officers' families had been told that the men would be sent away for about three months for indoctrination. The families would be allowed to send the officers packages but not to visit them.

Similar indoctrination courses are also apparently in store for prostitutes and criminals, according to a broadcast by the Provisional Revolutionary Government's radio monitored in Hong Kong.

While there were scattered reports of continued resistance by some military holdouts in the countryside, most reports from South Vietnam indicated that the new government was beginning to take hold in all areas of life.

UPI's Dawson, one of the American reporters who remained behind after the U.S. evacuation, said "If the

present pace and style of change in South Vietnam is maintained, it is possible the nation may be one of the most tolerant Communist regimes in the world and by far the most tolerant in Asia."

The Hanoi newspaper Nhan Dan said American predictions of a bloodbath following the Communist takeover in the South had been proved wrong.

"There has been no bloodbath, but only a sea of joy, nothing of the retaliation predicted by the United States but only love and mutual understanding among people," Hanoi broadcasts reported Nhan Dan as saying.

Independently, George Esper of The Associated Press, who also stayed in Saigon, reported that there were no visible signs of a bloodbath.

A South Vietnamese army captain said the North Vietnamese could have slaughtered thousands of soldiers and civilians but fired in front of them only to stop them. He said he was captured, released within two days and told he could visit his family.

"If they tried to kill, they could have killed everybody," he said. "They told

us, 'Don't worry. There will be no killing.'"

High-ranking Saigon officials were told to register with the new government, Esper said that authorities—too busy establishing security and a civilian government—simply ignored them for the first 10 days after the takeover.

Saigon's Liberation Radio said 10 generals were among the 1,500 senior officers who have registered with the new government. More than 300 navy ships of the former South Vietnamese navy were turned over to the

PRG, the radio said.

Although dispatches from Western correspondents in Saigon have begun to appear, communications remain erratic. Many dispatches are delayed a day or two, apparently due to a backlog at the telegraph office in Saigon, but there are no signs of censorship.

Dawson reported that military sources said that virtually all the country, including offshore islands, was under the control of the PRG.

Among the holdouts are troops of the 25th Div. about 15 miles northwest of Sai-

gon and a small militia unit about 20 miles southeast of the capital, Dawson reported the military sources as saying.

He said there was surprise among the military sources that the resistance is not coming from the supposed elite units of the former government but from less well-regarded units.

Dawson reported that the military sources said disident militiamen were being tracked down one by one and either captured or killed, depending on whether they were

ance. No casualty figures were available.

The military sources said that one pocket of resistance among the Hoa Hao sect, ended after local Viet cong commanders negotiated a political settlement, which included releasing their leader from jail.

The military sources also reported that a small pocket of resistance on the son island, one of the former tiger paws, had been wiped out.

Meanwhile, the Saigon government ordered mass victory celebrations for the

end of this coming week, warning that anyone who disrupts the festivities "will be severely punished."

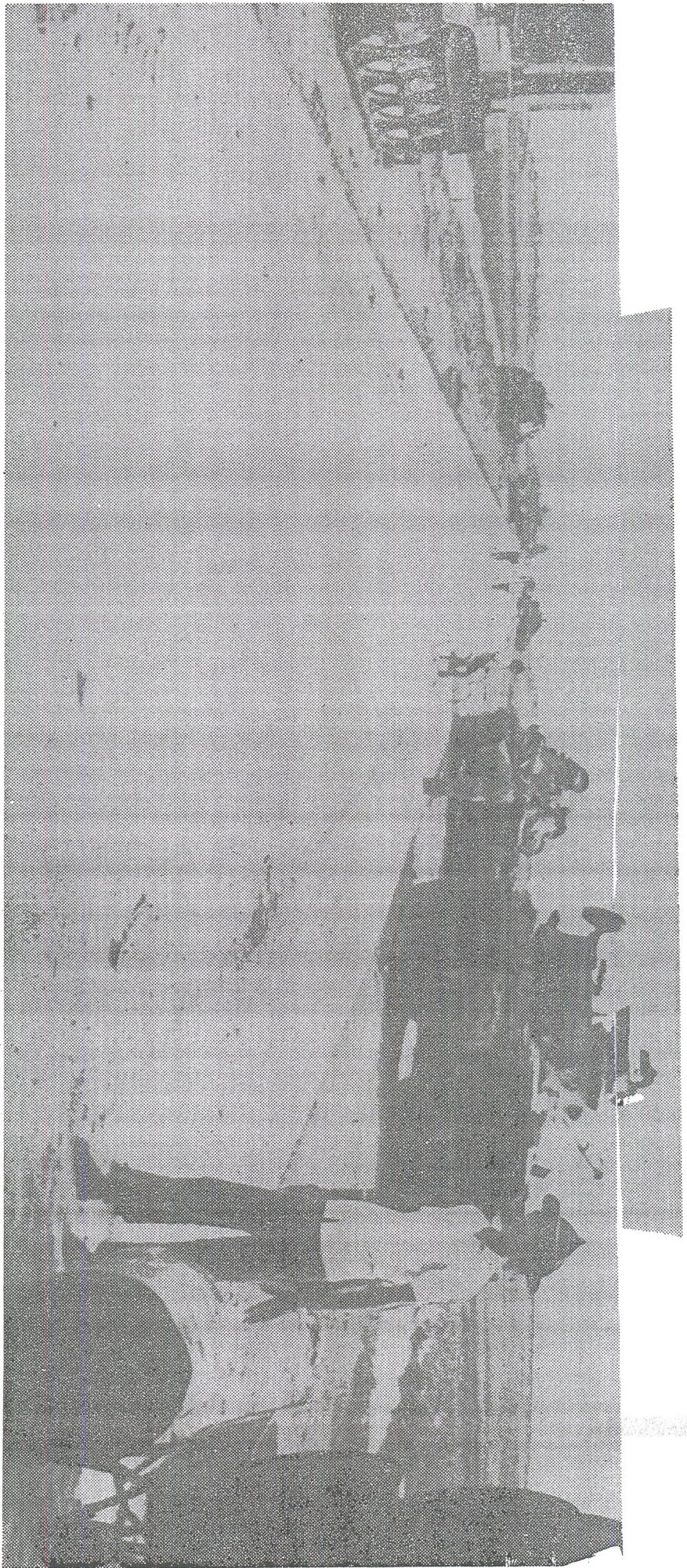
Radio broadcasts said that soldiers and government employees will be allowed time off during the three-day, May 15-17, period. All South Vietnamese—including those who worked for the former government—will be allowed to participate in the ceremonies leading up to Ho Chi Minh's birthday on May 19.

During the victory celebrations, all government

offices, schools, hospitals and every house must put up a portrait of former North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh, a revolutionary government flag and a North Vietnamese flag," a broadcast said.

In other developments yesterday:

•The PRG asked Singapore to help any of the South Vietnamese refugees there who wish to return home, adding in a note from its special representative in Hanoi that it would welcome all those who



South Vietnamese army vehicles, abandoned in the headlong retreat of the former Saigon army, still litter the roadside between Hue and Danang in early May.

Associated Press