

# PRG Hints At Links With U.S.

From News Dispatches

Officials of the new Saigon government have indicated in private discussions that the administration is prepared to accept diplomatic relations with the United States, UPI correspondent Alan Dawson reported Tuesday in a delayed dispatch from Saigon. 13 MAY

A broadcast by Hanoi Radio monitored in Hong Kong, said that the Vietcong's Provisional Revolutionary Government has claimed title to the South Vietnamese embassy in Washington and designated Algeria to take over the property.

Hanoi said the claim was made in a diplomatic note to the State Department May 10.

In Washington, a State Department spokesman said he was "unaware of any further message." He cited a similar request made last week by the Algerian charge d'affaires. The State Department at that time "took the matter under consideration," the spokesman said, and no further action has been announced.

In his report from Saigon, Dawson said Vietcong officials said privately that the initiative for establishing diplomatic recognition would have to come from Washington.

The officials said the Communist government would be willing to accept a small U.S. mission in Saigon, but the United States would have to agree not to meddle in Vietnamese affairs, UPI reported.

The report coincided with an announcement that Britain is recognizing the PRG; sources in Paris said France is expected to recognize the

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new Saigon government soon.

In Saigon, AP correspondent George Esper reported that hundreds of war refugees who fled to the South Vietnamese capital during the two months before the Communist takeover have begun returning to their homes.

He said Saigon is increasingly normal, as the refugees move back to the provinces and to the coastal regions of Quinhon and Danang.

The PRG has also sent notes to neighboring Asian nations asking them to inform Vietnamese refugees that they are welcome to come home, Esper reported.

The Foreign Ministry said the diplomatic notes, sent to the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia, said that a number of Vietnamese boats and ships in foreign waters had requested permission to return to Vietnam, and added: "Because we don't have representatives in your country, we request that you inform these Vietnamese ships we welcome their return home. Please tell them they can enter the ports of Vungtau, Danang, Quinhon or any other ports of South Vietnam."

Restaurants in Saigon are filled with people, AP reported, and business offices have reopened. Some airline agencies have reopened, but there is no word from authorities when Tansonnhut airport will resume commercial operations. Saigon radio said that more than 1,000 employees of the airport had been ordered back to work by military authorities.

There are daily flights from Hanoi, and one flight Monday brought in a group of about 30 foreign journalists, including East Europeans, Cubans, Chinese, two Frenchmen and an Italian. The reporters carried visas issued by the PRG.

The first cargo ship from North Vietnam was scheduled to arrive in Saigon Tuesday, and Saigon's Liberation Radio said an enthusiastic dockside welcome was being readied for the 10,000-ton vessel.

The radio said that the price of vegetables in Saigon's central market has dropped by 60 per cent, and that pickpockets and beggars have disappeared from market areas, Agence France-Presse reported. Saigon residents have also stopping taking a noon to 2 p.m. siesta.

The new government, concerned about law and order,

said a thief who stole the briefcase of an American correspondent was apprehended and shot on the spot, AP reported. Thieves are now judged immediately by a people's court, the agency said.

Broadcasts from Vietnam monitored in neighboring countries said that two major highways had been repaired and opened to traffic in the rice-rich Mekong Delta.

Although life in Saigon appears to be relaxed, signs of the war still crop up from time to time. Reuter correspondent Bernard Edinger described how children playing at the riverside shouted and pointed at a bloated human corpse that floated past a restaurant on the Saigon River.

Reuter said that the new Saigon Communist newspaper was not available Tuesday, but loudspeaker vans moved through the city giving people instructions.

On Monday, the newspaper had published an editorial confirming signs of resistance to the new Communist government.

"As everyone knows well," the editorial said, "though the puppet armed forces and administration collapsed, there still remain many reactionary, wicked and obdurate elements of the puppet armed forces

and administration . . ."

The newspaper reiterated that "those who blindly and recklessly continue to oppose the people and the revolution will certainly be severely punished," a euphemism for execution.

UPI correspondent Dawson reported, however, that "there has not been a single report of a reprisal killing anywhere in the Saigon area."

A former major in the deposed government asked Reuter correspondent Edinger to aid him in bringing his family back from the United States.

Nguyen Van Uyen, 38, said he believed that his wife, his parents and four children are in Los Angeles. "I believe my family are in Los Angeles, but they might still be in Guam or some other place," Uyen said. "I would like them to come back."

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