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Saigon: Changes to Be Slow

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SAIGON—The new South Vietnamese government—when it is formed—will change life in Saigon slowly, said today.

Le Van Giap, a ranking official of the cultural department of the as-yet-unformed administration, said the policies of the government will be "very moderate."

"As for actual reunification between the North and the South, it might even take years," he said.

Giap headed an organization in Saigon in 1966-67 that condemned American cultural influences brought by the U.S. soldiers.

"Now we have Vietnam for the Vietnamese," he said, sitting in his Saigon hotel room with the family he had not seen for eight years.

"But we must be very moderate in making the changes in Saigon and other cities."

He indicated that he expected lenient enforcement of laws wiping out the Westernized aspects of life in Saigon.

"Our brothers in the North realize we cannot have a regime like that of the North immediately," he said.

Giap is chairman of the Saigon Committee of the Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces formed after the 1968 Tet offensive.

He and dozens of officials like him are in Saigon to

formulate new policies for South Vietnam. They are under tight security guard at downtown hotels and guest houses.

Vietcong spokesmen have said the new government will not take office until after full security is restored. Lt. Gen. Tran Van Tra, chairman of the Military Management Committee governing Saigon, said last week that security remains the leading problem in the capital.

Several members of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, including the Foreign Minister, Nguyen Thi Binh, have already arrived in Saigon but are under tight guard.

As far as is known, no date has been set for formal introduction of the new administration, which has functioned as a provisional government in the jungles and small towns of South Vietnam since its formation in June 1969.

There has been no official word on the whereabouts of the two top leaders—President Huynh Tan Phat, a Saigon architect, and National Liberation Front chairman Nguyen Huu Tho, a former Saigon lawyer—although spokesmen have said the entire government "is in Vietnam."

Other news agencies reported the following other items from Vietnam:

Saigon radio, monitored in Singapore and Hong Kong, said that all property left behind by the Americans in South Vietnam now

belongs to the PRG. It also said that the property of "reactionaries" who fled the country is under PRG control.

The PRG decree warned there would be severe penalties against those who steal anything from former American premises, including offices, hotels, hospitals, schools, residences and commercial enterprises. It said that the former owners of abandoned homes could not reclaim them.

The South Vietnamese Liberation Press Agency reported that 50,000 South Vietnamese who had evacuated their villages before the advancing Communist forces have returned home in the past week.

In a Saigon radio broadcast monitored in Bangkok, the new authorities said that the most difficult task facing the PRG is to find work for more than 1 million unemployed 3 million "parasite" civil servants and 100,000 parasites and street urchins.

The radio was quoting from an article in yesterday's newspaper Liberation saying that the new rulers are transforming Vietnamese society.

The radio said that the factories now belong to the workers and that the workers are working longer hours for no extra pay to speed reconstruction.

Saigon radio also indicated that the old Vietnamese tradition of haggling over the price of goods is being eliminated. The radio said that representatives of

36 markets in the Saigon area had met to discuss a ban on bargaining. Fixed prices would become the rule at the open-air stalls, the radio said.

A dispatch from Saigon also quoted Liberation as saying that more than 200 university and high-school students have begun courses in the capital on the revolution.

Saigon's only paper said that the courses began May 9 and are aimed at enabling the students to understand the problems and history of the movement that led to "the great victories of our people over the Americans."

In other developments:

- A 12,000-ton North Vietnamese freighter laden with rice was greeted yesterday in the reopened port of Saigon by delegations of port workers and other groups. The first ship from the North, it docked at the same pier where Ho Chi Minh, the founder of North Vietnam, set out 64 years ago for France, where he founded the Indochinese Community Party.

- Hanoi radio said North Vietnam's President Ton Duc Thang and Paris ceasefire negotiator Le Duc Tho are leading a 12-person North Vietnamese delegation to Saigon for the celebration beginning Thursday of Ho's birthday. Messages from Thang and the North Vietnamese Defense Ministry mentioned reunification of the two Vietnams, the broadcast said.