

NYTimes MAY 17 1975
**Victors in Vietnam Celebrate
With MIG Show and Cocktails**

SAIGON, South Vietnam, May 16 (AP)—Top-ranking civilian leaders of South Vietnam's Provisional Revolutionary Government are in Saigon for the big celebration of the Communist victory, but it is not clear when they will take over the government of the city.

A military administrative committee is still governing the South Vietnamese capital. Its chairman, Lieut. Gen. Tran Van Tra, said at a news conference on May 8 that he could not predict when the transition to civilian government would take place.

"We intend that the military committee should expire as soon as possible," General Tra said at the time, adding: "How long this period will be depends on the practical situation, but we have not seen all the questions of the future. We are concentrating all efforts on normalizing the life of the people."

MIG's and Cocktails

The celebration continued last night with a brief North Vietnamese air show at dusk, a fireworks display after dark and then a cocktail party-reception at the presidential palace.

North Vietnam sent in eight of its Soviet-made MIG jets for the air show. The pilots made several passes over the city in formation, giving the population their first look at the planes that battled the United States Air Force, and which Hanoi kept above the demilitarized zone until this year.

The guests at the cocktail party and their hosts toasted each other with champagne and cognac and sampled a buffet piled with fruit. About 25 foreign journalists were invited.

A Jest Evokes Paris

A guest from North Vietnam, Le Duc Tho, burst into laughter when a newsman said to him that the only person missing seemed to be Henry A. Kissinger, who, as President Nixon's national security adviser, worked out much of the Paris peace agreement with Mr. Tho that was signed in 1973.

The party was held in the Ceremony Hall of the place palace where, last month, Nguyen Van Thieu had announced that he was resigning the Presidency of South Vietnam.

Today some guests walked about the hall, under sparkling chandeliers, in Ho Chi Minh sandals made from tires.

Some members of the Saigon neutralist faction known as the Third Force, under house arrest under the Thieu Government, were invited, including Ngo Ba Thanh, a longtime foe of Mr. Thieu's.

Saigon Sets a Curfew

BANGKOK, Thailand, May 16 (AP)—South Vietnamese authorities imposed a midnight-to-dawn curfew in Saigon today and ordered the military to arrest all curfew violators who did not have proper credentials, the Saigon radio announced.

The broadcast, monitored here, said the curfew was necessary because of the "requirement of common security and order and people's activities."

Under the fallen Government, Saigon had curfews for most of the war.

Hong Kong Link Restored

KONG KONG, May 16 (AP)—Direct commercial cable traffic between Hong Kong and Saigon was restored today.

Cable and Wireless, the international communications concern, said that the new South Vietnamese Government had informed it that the circuit for all classes of cables had been reopened at 11:36 A.M. today (10:36 P.M. Thursday, New York time).

Service on the circuit was

suspended on April 30 when Communist forces took Saigon. Cable and Wireless said that telephone and Telex circuits to Saigon had not been restored.

Thieu Officers Said to Yield

TOKYO, May 16 (AP)—The chairman of the Saigon military administrative committee said today that "tens of thousands" of members of the Thieu administration and army had reported in to the new government, Hanoi's Vietnam News Agency reported.

The chairman, Lieut. Gen. Tran Van Tra, told newsmen the members include "more than 20 generals and thousands of colonels," the Hanoi agency reported in a broadcast monitored here.