

SAIGON IS GETTING SOVIET GASOLINE

MAY 22 1975

3 Tankers, First Russian Ships to Arrive, Carry Badly Needed Fuel

SAIGON, South Vietnam, May 21 (AP)—Three Soviet tankers have arrived at nearby Nha Be port with badly needed fuel for Saigon, where gasoline is selling for up to \$8 a gallon. It was the first call at a South Vietnamese port by Soviet tankers.

What little gasoline is being sold in Saigon is often diluted with water. The shortage has caused a reduction in the number of motorcycles and automobiles on the streets and more people have begun using bicycles.

Meanwhile, the Provisional Revolutionary Government said that the United States and the former Saigon government had left a hunger problem behind among the city's 3.5 million people but that it was being solved. The Government newspaper said more than 120 tons of rice had been distributed in two districts in Saigon. It carried photos of civilians lining up for the free rice.

The newspaper also indicated that looting in Saigon and in surrounding provinces continued to be a major problem.

"The people have themselves stood up to pursue the elements who seek to destroy the revolution, who loot properties of the people and who threaten the lives of compatriots," the paper said.

The newspaper quoted an unidentified official source as having said that "there is now a popular movement in many places to discover and pursue the wicked elements who were servants of Americans and their puppet Saigon government."

The article indicated that some reprisals were in store for former officials and some people who worked for the United States, but that it was too early to assess just what form this would take and how extensive it might be.

Another Government an-

nouncement said refugees who left their home provinces during the fighting were being helped to return home. The Government said it was "solving the problem of transportation, of land cultivation and cultivation tools for the returnees."

It also said it was "encouraging small capitalists having some light industries producing the things that serve the life of the population to resume activities so as to afford work to workers."

Western Newsmen Complain

SAIGON, May 21 (Reuters)—Western newsmen today protested to the new Saigon authorities about difficulties in gathering and transmitting news and film reports.

A delegation representing 120 correspondents from 13 countries sent a letter to the presidential palace asking permission for a charter flight to Hong Kong to get news, photos and television film out.

But so far there has been no evidence of Government censorship of outgoing press reports.

Western television and newspaper cameramen said they have been unable to get pictures and film out of the country since the Communist-led forces took over three weeks ago, whereas newsmen from Cuba and Eastern Europe had returned to Hanoi with material they presumably relayed home and to the West.

Reporters complain of difficulties in meeting press officers of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and photographers are upset over increasing restrictions. They are regularly balked on taking pictures of troops and street scenes. A Japanese cameraman was arrested yesterday and later released.

The origins of the restrictions are not known.

Censorship Not Evident

By The Associated Press

News material from Associated Press correspondents in Saigon as received in New York shows no evidence of censorship—that is, of words, sentences or paragraphs deleted. But parts of articles sometimes fail to reach New York.

Correspondents file dispatches in "takes," or pages, that run about 250 to 250 words long. These takes are numbered. On occasion The Associated Press in New York has not received certain takes from its correspondents in Saigon. Sometimes a few takes have been received on one day and remaining takes a day or so later.

Communications from Saigon, cut off completely on April 30 and partly restored on May 7, are improving gradually but remain erratic.

Commercial cable companies in Hong Kong have lines open to Saigon. A direct Associated Press circuit between headquarters in New York and the bureau in Saigon has not been restored. It was cut on April 30.