

Hanoi Orders Some Soldiers To Establish Homes in South

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SAIGON—Thousands of North Vietnamese soldiers who marched south over the years will not return home but will settle down in South Vietnam, interviews with some of them show.

The troops' first loyalty is to the revolution and they follow whatever orders they receive from higher authorities, they say.

Some soldiers indicated they would be demobilized in the South and strongly encouraged to marry local girls.

The doctrinaire and well-disciplined northern soldiers put the advancement of the country above their personal wants, the interviews indicate.

An artilleryman from Hanoi, Sgt. Tran Dinh Lam, 25, said: "I will go and do whatever job they tell me to do. I was a student before joining the army seven years ago but I can learn any trade, including farming, if they instruct me so."

A southern cadre with 18 years in the liberation movement, Tran Quoc Viet, said:

"Shortly men and women cadres will be given opportunities to be introduced to one another with the idea of eventual marriage if the two people are so inclined and agree."

The integration of northern soldiers into the south appears to be a deliberate move to aid in the reunification of Vietnam by linking families in the north and south via marriage.

The family unit is the strongest entity in Vietnam. No matter how far removed a relative may be, the blood bond insures adhesion.

Another reason may be the fact that there are relatively few southern Provisional Revolutionary Government cadres and officials spread throughout the 20 million people of South Vietnam and the integration into the families of southerners may be a way of building the governmental structure and ensuring loyalty.

Hoang Dinh Thanh, 24, an infantryman from Thanhbinh, North Vietnam, said, "I will not be returning

to the north. I will marry and settle in the south. There is a lot of land that needs to be cultivated."

The majority of Communist troops throughout Saigon and the provinces come from the north. Only in the Mekong Delta does it appear that local people are in control. However, it seems that all major decisions are being referred to Hanoi.

In an apparent move to prevent any counterrevolutionary activity, northern combat troops are being sent deep into the Mekong Delta, where, in some places, they had never been before.

They are already ensconced in the northern three-fourths of South Vietnam.