

## S. Vietnam Reassures Catholics

From News Dispatches

The new rulers of South Vietnam have told representatives of the Roman Catholic church in Saigon that their policy provides for complete freedom of faith.

In the first meeting between the church and the new state, some 250 priests and bishops were told Wednesday that the administration's religious policy remained unchanged from the principle of freedom included in the programs of the National Liberation Front and the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

The Rev. Nguyen Van Binh, archbishop of Saigon, called the "friendly meeting" helpful for "comprehension between the Catholic people and the revolutionary government."

Saigon Radio, meanwhile, is devoting 90 minutes a day to broadcasting messages of families seeking to reunite after the divisions of two decades of war.

The messages not only seek to trace splits between members of families shifted north and south, but also to find soldiers separated from their relatives.

According to the radio's coverage of the meeting with the Catholic clergy, the Communist officials asked

them to help build and consolidate the revolution.

The Vatican's apostolic delegate, Henry Lemaire, left Saigon two weeks ago under attack by leftist Catholics who said he had abused his position as a clergyman by his "anti-Communist principles."

In other Southeast Asian developments:

- Although the Laotian Foreign Ministry said Friday that placement of three Pathet Lao soldiers at the house of U.S. Charge d'Affaires Christian A. Chapman had been a mistake and they would be removed, the three men armed with submachine guns were still camped in the yard.

- U.S. military officials in Honolulu said they hope to close down the South Vietnamese refugee camp on Guam by the end of the month. They said 22,000 refugees were still at the camp, with about 2,000 being flown to the U.S. mainland daily.

- The Vietnamese government's program to reeducate former soldiers and officials has been expanded to include school teachers and retired army officers, according to a communique issued by the Saigon Military Management Committee.

- Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak announced plans for Malaysia to expand police and armed forces and to create a neighborhood defense force to fight intensified Communist insurgency.

- The North Vietnamese Communist Party newspaper Nhan Dan said a speech Wednesday by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, saying the United States "will not turn away from Asia," showed the United States "has not yet drawn the necessary lessons from its failure in Indochina."