

Vietnamese Admits 'Security Problem' Of Armed Holdouts

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BONN, June 30—The President of the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam, in an interview with the German news magazine Der Spiegel, has admitted that the new government in Saigon has "security problems" in the form of continuing armed resistance by soldiers of the defeated regime.

Nguyen Huu Tho, who operated underground from 1961 until the North Vietnamese led the National Liberation Front to victory in Saigon this April, was quoted as saying, in the interview published today: "We do in fact have security problems. Our enemies surrendered, but they were not destroyed."

"They cannot do very much," he went on, "but they try to create disorder. From time to time, for example, individual soldiers are killed; someone chrows a hand grenade."

In the article Mr. Tho also criticized the United States for not helping to rebuild South Vietnam, and emphasized that the most serious problems facing the country were economic. It would be "unthinkable," he asserted, not to reunite the two Vietnams, which were divided roughly at the 17th parallel after the French defeat in 1954. He said the Vietnamese people were devoting "all their efforts" to reunification.

Mr. Tho is 65 years old. He had been a prominent lawyer in the Saigon of President Ngo Dinh Diem before he went underground. Now Der Spiegel characterized him, in the first interview he has granted a Western publication, as the highest official of "Revolutionary South Vietnam."

The interview was conducted in Saigon by the magazine's long-time Southeast Asia correspondent, Tiziano Terzani.

The interview was not accompanied by comment or an independent assessment of conditions in Saigon by the Spiegel correspondent.

On economic difficulties, Mr. Tho said: "Our first assignment is to get agricultural and industrial production going again. This has absolute priority. In the economy, we will try not to be dependent on other countries, for example in raw materials."

"Take oil—we have oil in the South as well as in the North. All we need is time and technical help."