

WXPost JUL 2 1975

Saigon Arrests Ex-Officers

From News Dispatches

South Vietnamese security forces have arrested more than 40 persons, including former officers of the Thieu government, and seized weapons and ammunition, Saigon's Radio Giai Phong reported yesterday in a broadcast monitored in Hong Kong.

The radio said that among those arrested in Bienhoa Province north of Saigon were three lieutenant colonels, two majors and five captains. It said that persons who resisted, in the Langthanh area of the province, were "punished on the spot," but no further details were given.

An anti-government organization that had allegedly stolen rice in a village near Saigon was also broken up by security forces, the radio said.

It accused the group of posing as revolutionary authorities to "disturb the population and resist the revolution." The group had "admitted stealing rice from the government reserved for the poor for sale," the radio said.

The radio reports of arrests were the second in nine days. On June 22 the Giai Phong radio said that civilians had helped security forces flush out and arrest numerous officers in the Thanhmytay, Binhhoa and Tanbinh sectors of Saigon.

Meanwhile, officials of the Provisional Revolutionary Government in Saigon said elections will be held soon at the local level. The government also announced the dismissal of corrupt officials in at least four Saigon wards.

Another Giai Phong Radio report, monitored in Hong Kong, appeared to indicate that South Vietnam is jining up beside Hanoi in backing the Indian government in its current crisis.

China's media has sternly attacked Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's declaration of emergency, while North Vietnamese and Soviet agencies have praised her actions.

The Saigon radio yesterday reported an interview with Indian Foreign Minister Sardar Swaran Singh, stressing that despite the state of emergency India's foreign stance remained unchanged. He mentioned Indian projects to help with Vietnamese reconstruction after the "American invasion."

In Hanoi, meanwhile, a communique from the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry said that North Vietnam and Portugal have established diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level.