

# Saigon Denies It Killed Officers During Re-Education Program

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, July 11 (Agence France-Presse)—The ruling military committee said today that people should not believe "false rumors aimed at sowing suspicion among the families of persons undergoing re-education." The statement followed persistent rumors that dozens of former South Vietnamese Officers had been killed while attending re-education courses organized by the revolutionary administration.

So strong were the rumors that about 50 relatives of officers undergoing re-education turned up at Doc Lap Palace here some days ago and demanded to see the head of the administrative committee, Gen. Tran Van Tra, witnesses said. The general refused to see the women but an officer gave them reassurances, the witnesses stated.

## Reactionaries Blamed

One reason for the anxiety is the fact that when the re-education program was announced on June 10 authorities indicated that the course would last three days for ordinary soldiers, 10 days for junior officers and middle-echelon civil servants and one month for senior officers and officials. The fact that the length of the courses could be extended was not announced at first and subsequent announcements have not cleared up misunderstandings.

Today, authorities attributed the rumors to "reactionary elements." Their official announcement said that, on the

whole, the re-education courses were being carried out under satisfactory conditions.

Officers and officials of the former regime are not the only persons undergoing re-education. It has been extended to members of the new revolutionary administration.

According to a recent directive from the military management committee all military and civilian personnel of the local and central administration in Saigon are to attend re-education courses.

## Abuses Criticized

It said the objective was to eliminate isolated abuses of power that "compromised the prestige and honor of the revolution, sowed trouble among the population and facilitated enemy propaganda." Unlike the members of the old regime, the revolutionary leaders will not be sent away for re-education and the course they will follow will be different, the directive indicated.

The military authorities have criticized some civil servants and soldiers for requisitioning buildings and confiscating personal property and vehicles without justification.

Yesterday, Catholic sources said that a group of priests have been ordained in Saigon for the first time under the new regime. They said six Redemptorist priests were ordained on June 21 at the E Redemptorist Church here in ceremonies attended by a large crowd, including the Archbishop of Saigon, Nguyen Van Binh.