

SAIGON LABORERS COMPLAIN OF BOSS

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Factory Manager Arrested
on Exploitation Charge
NYTimes

SAIGON, South Vietnam (UPI) — No one argues that Nguyen Phuoc Von ran the Vietnam Textile Company with an iron hand. The question was whether he was a slavedriver who made profits at the expense of the employes or merely a good businessman.

The workers, supported by the new Communist Government, say Mr. Vong was an evil man, and he is under arrest.

Vinatexco, the leading textile concern in Vietnam was owned by a Chinese businessman, Ly Long Thanil, a good friend and leading financier of former President Nguyen Van Thieu. With the departure of Mr. Thieu and his friend, the company was taken over with the proclamation that the workers owned it.

Mr. Vong, aged 69, remained temporarily as manager and all the workers were guaranteed their jobs. But there was trouble when he reopened the plant early in May after the take-over of Saigon.

Workers complained to officials assigned to Vinatexco that Mr. Vong exploited them during the old regime. They said he hired mechanics to maintain the spinning and weaving machines at wages considerably below the going rate. He was able to do this,

the charges said, because Vinatexco, with its political connections, could offer draft exemptions.

Given a choice between working long hours for low salaries and entering the army, most men opted for the low pay. They harbored a grudge against Mr. Vong, who refused all pleas for raises despite growing profits.

With the active support of the new officers at the factory the charges became more specific. According to the official Saigon newspaper, Gai Phong, Mr. Vong has been jailed and his assistants are at Vinatexco under house arrest for "re-education."

"Workers have exposed these guilty men," the newspaper said. "The cruel Nguyen Phuoc Vang has been arrested and sent to the government security section for further questioning. The others have to remain in the factory for re-education courses."

Mr. Vong has retained his elaborate home in Saigon's most fashionable residential section. A family member said there was no word on when he would be released, and there was no indication what punishment he faced.

The Vong case is not unique in South Vietnam, although there has apparent been little retaliation on any level and virtually none against former members of the Thieu Government or army. But in specific cases men deemed by "the people" the truly evil have been singled out for special treatment.