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Policemen Return To Saigon Streets

Saigon

Uniformed police appeared on the streets of Saigon yesterday for the first time since the South Vietnamese capital surrendered on April 30.

They wear new khaki uniforms and khaki caps and they replace the old regime's white-clad "white mice" policemen. Some are guarding public buildings while others are trying to restore some sort of order to Saigon's anarchic traffic.

Although the streets of Saigon were deserted by almost all vehicles except bicycles in the weeks that followed the April 30 takeover, motorcycles and private cars are now appearing more and more as the price of fuel drops until the city now seems almost as noisy as it was under the old regime.

Until now, the job of maintaining order and directing traffic had been carried out entirely by the army, although some members of the old police force were used to direct traffic after being given red armbands. Students also helped with traffic control.

Agence France-Presse