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S. Vietnam: Carrot, Not Stick

Quaker Couple Describe New Communist Regime

By Marjorie Hyer

Washington Post Staff Writer

The new regime in South Vietnam governs more with the carrot than the stick, said a Quaker couple who have just returned from two years of service in that country.

The new government "shows more of an evangelical zeal; they're interested in converting people rather than hitting them over the head," said Paul Quinn-Judge in response to questions about the much-talked about "bloodbath" in Vietnam.

Paul and Sophia Quinn-Judge were among the few Westerners living in Vietnam since the fall of the Thieu government last April, while the new Marxist regime sought to reorganize the country after 30 years of war.

The husband-wife team, who served as Saigon representatives for the American Friends Service Committee, spoke informally at a press conference yesterday about their experiences and observations.

"We made the decision to stay (after the Saigon government fell and Americans withdrew) because we thought it important to have outside observers on the scene," said Mrs. Quinn-Judge, who, like her British-born husband, is 26. Both speak fluent Vietnamese.

"We were able to move freely, take pictures and to make new contacts" under the new government, she continued, but added that their contacts with government were "limited to minor officials."

Quinn-Judge said one of the early priorities of the new regime in Saigon was in "organizing machinery to allow the peasants to return



By Frank Johnston—The Washington Post

Paul and Sophia Quinn-Judge check photos of Saigon.

to the countryside (from Saigon), mainly to their own homes."

In the first month after the end of the war, he said, "18,000 had gone, completely voluntarily. They didn't need compulsion because the peasants are very attached to their land."

Substantial numbers of peasants had settled in the South Vietnamese capital over the years, partly as the result of their villages being overrun or evacuated and partly to seek work with the American military.

Additional numbers poured into the city in panic as the war ended last spring.

The Quaker couple said that religious leaders, both Buddhist and Roman Catholic, generally enjoy good relations with the present government of Vietnam.

"Buddhist venerables and Catholic bishops are treated with a great deal of respect," Mrs. Quinn-Judge said, adding that some of the first newspapers to receive licenses to publish under the

new government were Catholic journals.

One of these, she said, was a weekly, "which we translated as Catholic and Nation, which dealt with the Catholic community all over Vietnam. It dealt with those Catholics who were feeling scared about their new government."

She said postwar developments in Vietnam disclosed

"far more communication between the (Catholic) bishops and the Provisional Revolutionary Government than we had known existed."

There is less hostility between the Catholic church and the present Marxist government in Vietnam today than there was two decades ago when Ho Chi Minh took over what was then North Vietnam, because Catholic leadership in recent years has been "more realistic," Quinn-Judge said.

"One of the most effective movements against the Thieu government was the conservative Catholics," who were disillusioned with the corruption," he said.

The couple, whose work in Vietnam involved administration of the rehabilitation center that the American Friends Service Committee established in Quang Ngai for Vietnamese war-injured, said they decided to return

in part "because we had had a lot of experiences and we decided it was time to come back and talk about them."

Quinn-Judge said it "had always been the policy of the AFSC to Vietnamese the (rehabilitation) center." They had trained Vietnamese workers, he said, and had had some negotiations with the Thieu regime about taking over the center.

"One of our criteria had been that it would be administered competently and honestly, said we had no confidence the Saigon (Thieu) government to which the he said.

He said he had no such qualms about the present government to which the Quaker agency has given control of the center.
