

## LIFE IS PEACEFUL IN MEKONG DELTA

Classes in 'Reorientation'  
Appear to Flourish

MY THO, South Vietnam, Sept. 15 (Agence France-Presse) — Since the war ended the Mekong Delta has apparently become a peaceful land, and My Tho, with its floating houses and promenades along the majestic Mekong River, is one of its most attractive cities.

A visitor returning for the first time since the Communists took over South Vietnam on April 30 notices few changes at first. Soldiers' uniforms are different, and jukeboxes that used



The New York Times/Sept. 16, 1975  
Changes were noted in a visit to My Tho, Ba Tri and Truc Giang.

to blare American songs into the early hours of the morning now play songs from a Chinese operetta, until the 11 P.M. curfew, which is observed with only slight disrespect.

During the day the city is as busy as ever. In the maze of tiny streets off the main avenues crowds jostle outside the stalls of businessmen and craftsmen whose children play in front of the shops.

The visitor is struck by the absence of beggars. In a three-day visit to the area, only once, outside Ba Tri, did a beggar approach. It was a woman with a baby in her arms, and she asked for alms, but did not insist.

Visitors are the object of intense curiosity since Europeans in the delta are a rare sight now. Everywhere, the travelers were surrounded by dozens of people, particularly children, speculating on the foreigners' nationality. Most thought they were Russians. Throughout the visit to My Tho, Ben Tre and Ba Tri, the same scenes were repeated.

There are schools for teaching reading and writing, but other kinds of schools are aimed at educating the people in "readjustment." There are schools for "reorientation" of teachers and for retraining personnel of the former regime.

In My Tho where the travelers spent the first night, there was a long, orderly line of people. Both in My Tho and and young, some wearing the traditional conical hat, marching toward a building where a 5 P.M. class in "political formation" was being held.

There was also a group of 30 people, said to be former civil servants and soldiers who had been retrained, farming and cleaning ditches.

Another facet of re-education is the campaign against "speculating middlemen," which is emphasized by warnings to the people. Both in My Tho and Ba Tri, loudspeakers carried strident appeals at 5 A.M. and announced the arrest of the "king of cloth" or the "king of sugar."

The loudspeakers also announce people's meetings, play patriotic songs and carry news bulletins concerning the campaign to "mobilize the masses."