

DEC 24 1975

## Saigon Primate Bids Catholics Help Build A Reunified Nation

NYTimes

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Dec. 23 (Reuters)—Archbishop Nguyen Van Binh of Saigon issued a Christmas message today urging Roman Catholics to help build an independent and reunified Vietnam.

Church authorities are planning the first traditional Christmas Eve midnight mass for many years in Saigon's Catholic basilica. The archbishop will preside at the service.

The Government has announced that there will be no curfew tomorrow night, and this has added a sparkle to preparations for Vietnam's first peacetime Christmas in a generation. Saigon's shops are jammed with people rushing to buy Christmas trees and other holiday goods.

During the last years of the regime of President Nguyen Van Thieu, which fell last April, the traditional midnight mass at the basilica—just a few hundred yards from the former presidential palace—had to be replaced with early evening services because of the wartime curfew.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government, in a statement broadcast repeatedly on the radio and television, has ordered all security forces to insure order in the city to enable people to celebrate Christmas.