

Vietnam Says Former Foes Will Be Tried

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BANGKOK, June 10 (UPI)

—South Vietnam will bring to trial “lackeys for the U.S. imperialists” and other past and present enemies of the Communist government, official Vietnamese reports said today.

Hanoi and Saigon Radios and the two official press agencies of Vietnam spoke for the first time of retaliation against opponents.

A policy statement signed by South Vietnamese President Huynh Tan Phat on May 25 pledged that those convicted “will be severely punished.”

The broadcasts said that 95 per cent of former soldiers and civil servants who had reported for re-education have been released from the camps and have recovered full citizenship rights, although many will be subjected to surveillance for six months and more.

Some 40,000 still in the camps will have to remain there for at least three years, according to the announcement.

At least 32 former generals are known to be in the camps, along with senior civil servants and senior and junior officers who performed intelligence, propaganda and infantry duties against the Communists during the war. Describing those who will be tried, the statement said:

“These people deliberately served as lackeys for the U.S. imperialists, opposed the revolution and relied on the power of reactionaries to exploit, plunder, oppress and kill people and

enrich themselves on the blood and bones of our compatriots.”

The statement said they include:

- Those in re-education camps who served with pro-American governments and who do not repent their anti-Communist feelings.
- Former Communist troops and officials who had defected to the Americans or the Saigon government.
- “Those who committed many crimes against the

people and dangerous chief evil-doers who incurred many blood debts.”

- Persons still involved in the anti-Communist resistance.

- Anti-Communist refugees who fled in the American evacuation and who return to Vietnam.

This last category apparently includes at least some of the 1,531 Vietnamese who returned to Vietnam last October from Guam. It excludes “those who went astray (or) became panicky,” left Vietnam and who now wish to return, the statement said.

Also slated to undergo “appropriate punishment” are Vietnamese who are caught trying to flee the Communist nation.

Until now, government officials had stressed forgiveness toward those who had worked for the pro-American government.

Reporters in South Vietnam, who were ordered to leave just a month ago, had been unable to document any case of revenge killing by the new authorities during their first year in power in Saigon.

Meanwhile, 19 Vietnamese rescued from a sinking fishing boat in the South China Sea May 28 arrived in Hong Kong today and the immigration department granted them a one-month stay “on humanitarian grounds.” Seven claimed to have friends or relatives in the United States and three said they had relatives in Hong Kong.