

# South Vietnam Warns Population Of Strict Controls After Truce

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SAIGON, Jan. 22—The government bluntly warned the people of South Vietnam today that their conduct will be tightly controlled after a cease-fire and that violators of the restrictions will be dealt with severely.

Articles planted by the government in the authoritative newspaper Tin Song and other papers listed a broad range of activities, from circulating Vietcong currency to deserting the army, that are to be punished by summary execution.

Hoarding, price-gouging and half a dozen actions considered "pro-Communist" are also punishable by death, the articles said.

The announcement came as no surprise to Western analysts or to Saigon's sophisticated politicians, who have known for months that the government was planning what one opposition figure called "draconian methods" for the period after a cease-fire.

Now the word has been passed to the man in the street and in the rice field. After being told since October that Saigon would never accept an agreement that did not meet this or that demand, he is now being told that a cease-fire is imminent and that it means less freedom, not more.

"The peace we expect is apparently drawing nearer than

ever," a commentary on the state-owned Saigon Radio said tonight. "But whether we can maintain and guarantee it is another problem."

Following the current government position that an end to the fighting will be followed by an intense "political struggle" with the Communists, the broadcast said: "We should not be negligent before a cunning and treacherous enemy . . . The agreement, if signed, is not likely to bring us a genuine and lasting peace . . . [it] brings nothing guaranteeing that the Communists will seriously respect and implement it."

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The memory of the Communists' "acts of betrayal," the commentary said, "forces us to remain highly vigilant and make many precautions."

Tin Song and other papers—which are tightly controlled by the government—reported that the army has been placed on 24-hour alert since Saturday in anticipation of a cease-fire. Police forces have also been ordered to take extra precautions, Tin Song said.

The restrictive measures announced by the press today are not new. Most were drafted last year during the six months President Thieu had the authority to rule the country by decree. Others,

such as the ban on overt Communist political activity, date back several years. They were publicized at this time, Vietnamese sources said, to remind the population of the extent of the government's authority and the scope of the restrictions that a cease-fire will bring.

Viewed as a package, they show what the Thieu government fears most from a cease-fire: the possibilities of social disruption, labor unrest, desertion, economic chaos and migration of population into Communist-held areas.

According to the list in Tin Song, the activities punishable by death "on the spot" are incitement of pro-Communist demonstrations, desertion or inciting to desertion, jailbreaks by "robbers and thieves"—a potentially volatile issue, since some political prisoners are being reclassified as common criminals—and disruptive economic activities such as hoarding or circulation of Vietcong money.

Among the activities that are to result in quick arrests are distribution of Communist leaflets and flags, interference with government security forces, incitement to leave government-controlled areas and public political activities by "pro-Communist or neutralist elements."

It is not clear how these restrictions can be squared with the official position that the

National Liberation Front, the Vietcong's political arm, is to be permitted to participate in this year's elections.

Informed Vietnamese do not dismiss these warnings lightly. The government has repeatedly shown that it will make mass arrests when it feels it is necessary, and there are abundant signs that the Thieu administration is prepared to increase its control over the populace.

In some province, for example, every family has been photographed as a unit, Vietnamese sources say. That photograph is in the custody of the government, and presence

of any extra persons in the house—or the absence of any persons in the photograph who cannot be accounted for—is to be taken as proof of unlawful activity the sources say.

In other areas, a color-coding system is used, with each family designated by a color showing the degree of loyalty to the government—a determination that local officials have wide latitude in making.