

# Big Viet Security Alert Ahead of a Cease-Fire

## Saigon

South Vietnamese troops throughout the country have been put on full alert and security measures in the major cities are being sharply intensified in anticipation of Communist attacks before a cease-fire agreement is signed.

Military spokesmen said that today and tomorrow a battalion of 300 to 500 military police and an equal number of combat policemen — soldiers who are commanded by the police— will begin taking up positions on street corners in Saigon and on the main highways into the capital.

Similar forces have been ordered to reinforce the regular police in the cities of Da Nang, Hue, Pleiku and Can Tho.

## INSPECTIONS

One senior officer said that the usual random inspections of identification papers would be intensified and that vehicles entering the cities would be thoroughly searched.

The officer said police have been ordered to sweep through residential sections after the 11 p.m. curfew and make house-to-house inspections to insure that only au-

thorized residents are present.

Toward the end of last October, when a cease-fire seemed at hand, Communist troops occupied about 30 hamlets near Saigon in a series of quick thrusts.

## ORDERS

Allied officials say orders have been issued for a similar drive now, but they say they strongly doubt the Communists' ability to duplicate their earlier success.

With this in mind, some critics say they believe the increased vigilance has been ordered out of concern for a political rather than a military threat to the Saigon government.

The measures outlined by the officers were reportedly included in a set of broad instructions on preparations for a cease-fire that President Nguyen Van Thieu issued to his principal military commanders last Wednesday.

## REMINDER

Thieu is said to have especially reminded the commanders that under current martial law, the police and armed forces are authorized to shoot on the spot people who incite riots and "applaud the Communists."

He also pointed out that they are empowered to sum-

marily arrest anyone who:

- Distributes Communist propaganda or flies a Communist flag.

- Interferes with government officials attempting to maintain order.

- Urges others to move to Communist-controlled areas.

- Engages in political activities as a "neutralist or pro-Communist."

- Issues currency to the Communists.

According to the semi-official newspaper Tin Song, these measures will remain in effect in government-controlled areas after a cease-fire goes into effect.

"Whoever thinks that when there is a cease-fire the national sovereignty will not belong to the authorities of the government, the police and the armed forces, are wrong," the newspaper quoted a reliable source as saying.

The article in the newspaper, which is partially financed by Thieu's closest aid, continued: "All the structures of the Republic of Vietnam government will be retained with all the authorities and powers granted by the constitution and laws of the south until a new single 'political formula' has been agreed upon by all sides."

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