

6 FEB 70 ET SEQ*

(See this file 29 Mar 70.)

JAILED PUBLISHER RELEASED BY SAIGON

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Nov. 11—One of South Vietnam's most widely known political prisoners, Nguyen Lau, a former newspaper publisher, was released from prison tonight after serving two years and seven months.

His release, which had been promised for Oct. 31, was a result of a decree by President Nguyen Van Thieu granting amnesty to 2,938 people, including prisoners of war and Vietcong suspects.

Mr. Lau, who owned the English-language Saigon Daily News, was sentenced by a military court in July, 1969, to five years in prison for having contact with a Vietcong agent, Tran Ngoc Hien.

Mr. Hien was later identified as the brother of an important Deputy Tran Ngoc Chau, who in February, 1970, was imprisoned for also having had meetings with him.

Some anti-Government politicians said Mr. Lau's release might be intended by President Thieu to "calm public opinion" on the continued imprisonment of Deputy Chau.

The Supreme Court ruled last year that the military court that tried and sentenced Deputy Chau was unconstitutional and that his 10-year sentence should be annulled. But President Thieu, who reportedly has great personal animosity toward Mr. Chau, ignored both rulings.

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