

7 Dissident Saigon Students To Finish School Year in U.S.

By Benjamin Welles

WASHINGTON, June 23 (NYT). —Seven South Vietnamese college students in the United States on grants from the Agency for International Development have refused to return to South Vietnam, saying that they fear prosecution for their anti-war views.

All seven, who have been recalled by Saigon, have been critical of the war and of American participation in it and, particularly, of the government of President Nguyen Van Thieu. In explaining their refusal they cite a threat by Mr. Thieu to "beat to death" those of his countrymen who call for "immediate peace, in surrender to the Communists."

The AID agency issued and then revoked orders directing them to return home immediately. They will be allowed to stay until they complete their academic years.

On June 7, four of the students received letters from the AID agency's headquarters here informing them that "the government of the Republic of Vietnam has requested that the government of the United States terminate your training program under the sponsorship of AID."

The letter, dated June 1 and signed by Robert W. Landry, deputy assistant director for the training program, notified them that, "in compliance with this request, your program has been terminated effective June 1, 1972."

It added that airline tickets for transportation home were in the AID office and that the agency would "assist" their early return.

The students are Nguyen Tang Huyen, who is to graduate July 8 with honors in psychology from the University of California at Berkeley; Nguyen Thai Binh, who is graduating shortly from the University of Washington at Seattle, and Nguyen Huu An and Vu Ngoc Con, aviation engineering students due to graduate next year from the Northrop Institute of Technology at Inglewood, Calif.

The three other students received telephone calls from American officials notifying them of the cutoff of their studies at the request of the South Vietnamese government and directing them to return home immediately. They are Miss Doan Thi Nam-hau and Bui Van Dao, both about to graduate from California State, Long Beach, and Tran Quoc Hung, who is completing studies at California State, Fullerton.

Orders Countermanded

Maurice J. Williams, deputy administrator of the AID agency, said yesterday that Mr. Landry's letters had been an administrative error. On learning of them, Mr. Williams said, he had countermanded the orders and directed that the students be allowed to complete their academic years.

Mr. Williams also said that AID had erred in cutting off the students' stipends—approximately \$10 a day—on June 1. He said that all would receive checks covering their stay in the United States until the end of the school year.

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