# Many' Flak Guns Moved Bounty For King? Towards Saigon By Cong DALTON Ga. — A prison buddy of James Earl Ray said he and Ray were in the said the FBI had interviewed and cigarettes. He said Ray told him the

By United Press International SAIGON - American commanders, reporting Tuesday on a series of battles in which allied force killed 164 Viet Cong, said Communist troops had moved great numbers of antiaircraft guns within 15 miles of the South Vietnamese capital.

Such a buildup could seriously hamper American air power in countering a second wave invasion of Saigon. In Saigon all South Vietnamese troops and police remained on 100 per cent alert against the possibility of a major

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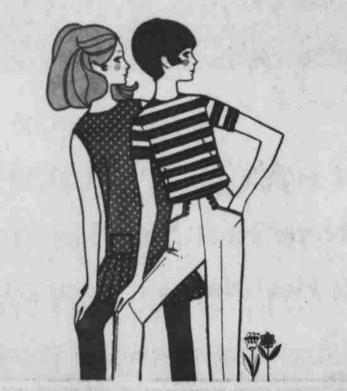


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tiaircra't fire protecting Communist intiltration routes in the Mekong Delta south of Saigon conicided with an ofticial U.S. Air Force announcement that a third F111A

fighter-bomber was lost. The 111A communique said the \$3 million swing-wing jet crasheFd "due to unknown causes" and was believed to have gone down with its two crewmen somewhere in the jungles of Thailand.

Radio Hanoi made no mention of the FIIIA loss, but it reported one American unshot down over the port of Haiphong Tuesday. The same broadcast said two manned iets were downed Monday over

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Quang Binh province just aove the Demilitarized one.

There was no confirmation of the Communist claims from Saigon headquarters. The U.S. Command announced 155 air war missions by American planes Monday which con-centrated on the panhandle area between the DMZ and the 19th parallel. The total was five less than the record

this year, logged last Saturday.
Official U.S. sources disclosed that American aircraft have dropped at least 20 million leaflets over North Vietnam manned reconnaissance plane in recent days, urging the penple to press their Communist leader to enter "meaningful peace alks."

The U.S. sources said the psychological warfare campaign began on April 1—the day the bombing curtailment started. Like the limited air strikes, the propaganda leaflets have been dropped only as far north as the 19th Parallel.

The focus of the ground war remained fixed in the Saigon area, and allied intelligence officers said they expect another large-scale Viet Cong attack on the capital rivaling that during the Tet offensive in January and February. The Communists held on Saigon's fringers for 10 days in that

Elements of three Communist deivisions are believed within easy striking distance of the capital.

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buddy of James Earl Ray said Tuesday that when Ray heard their was a "million-dollar bounty" on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. he smiled and said "I'll collect it."

Ray a 40-year-old fugitive from the Missouri State prison is accused by the FBI of assassinating King in Memphis on April 4.

In the Dalton jail Raymond Curtis 40 awaiting appeal on murder sentence said he has known Ray in the Kansas City jail in federal prison at Leavenworth Kan, and in the state prison at Jefferson City

He described Ray as likeable, addicted to "dope," a "loner" and a man con-

cerned only with money. On the day President Kennedy was assassinated -Nov. Ray and about 150 other prisoners were in an exercise yard when they heard the

He said Ray remarked "Well somebody made a pretty penny on that." About a week later Curtis

yard when "a new man just in off the street" told them "the businessmen's association has a million dollar bounty

out for Martin Luther King." Ray smiled, Curtis recalled and said. "If there's a million dollars out for King I believe if I ever get out I'll collect

Curtis said he never figured out what the "new man" meant by the "businessmen's association." He said he couldn't remember who the

"I didn't think much about it at the time. In prison you hear all sorts of hellacious ideas," said Curtis, a rawboned man.

Authorities in Jefferson City confirmed that Curtis and Ray were in prison at the same

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said the FBI had interviewed Curtis on Sunday and again idonday night. It refused com-

ment on the matter. Curtis said Ray told him "he always carried a gun. He was always interested in money" Curtis said but never mentioned racial matters.

"He never made no statements of any kind in a group" Curtis said. "He was

Ray couldn't make a long conversation "unless he was planning something" said Curtis, "If he was planning something you could bet they'd be thorough plans." Ray he said masterminded things "that would be small things outside but were pretty big jobs in prison" - such as the theft of eggs and drugs

and cigarettes.
He said Ray told him that if he ever wanted to kill someone he would buy a gun under a false name and have everything ready for an escape. "He used to talk a lot about escaping to New Zealand, Brazil and Argentina"



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