

N. Viets bombard Allied bases; drive stalled to 'study enemy'

SAIGON—Communist gunners attacked South Vietnamese forces on both sides of the Laos border Wednesday, hitting the main base in South Vietnam for Saigon's offensive against the Ho Chi Minh Trail and stopping U.S. helicopters from helping another isolated unit in Laos.

The Saigon offensive has been stalled for a week.

In Washington, a high-ranking Defense Department planner said the South

Vietnamese drive in Laos has been halted to "study enemy reactions," and that the assault will be extended if the Communists shift supply movements farther west.

Lt. Gen. John W. Vogt, chief administrative assistant to the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke at a Pentagon news conference during which Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird declared that "the initiative no longer belongs to the enemy in Indochina."

Vogt denied reports, which he attributed to "some junior officers in the field," that the Laotian offensive to sever the Ho Chi Minh Trail had bogged down. "Believe me, this is far from the truth," he said. "The halt was made to study enemy reactions. The enemy has not stopped South Vietnamese movement along Highway 9—the major east-west route entering southern Laos from northern South Vietnam. There are no major engagements stopping our

troops... no major force stopping the column on Highway 9."

The general said the junction city of Sepone, 27 miles inside Laos, is a bombed-out ruin with no military value but that around it lies "the hub of the present Ho Chi Minh Trail."

A salvo of rockets struck the South Vietnamese base at Quang Tri, the supply-communications center for the Laos campaign, but no damage or casualties were reported. It was the first such attack in six months.

Officials in both Saigon and Washington continued to say the 16-day Laos campaign was going well and on schedule despite the rising U.S.-South Vietnamese casualties and American helicopter losses. A Saigon spokesman reported, however, that South Vietnamese forces were stopped 16 miles inside Laos for the seventh consecutive day and that there were no immediate plans for an advance.

In Washington, Laird said the Laos offensive was achieving its objective of "major disruption of enemy supply routes."

UPI correspondent Joseph Galloway reported from Quang Tri Wednesday night that 15 to 20 Soviet-built 122mm rockets landed shortly after 9 p.m.



Calley rests case

FT. BENNING, Ga.—The defense rested its case Wednesday in the murder court-martial of Lt. William L. Calley just one minute after Calley completed his eight-hour-long tale of the massacre at My Lai.

Three-and-a-half of those hours Calley spent under cross-examination by prosecutor Aubrey M. Daniels III, who drew from Calley the admission he executed civilians at My Lai, but did not consider it any "big deal."

Calley was the 40th and last witness for the defense.

The prosecution called 35 witnesses at the beginning of the trial, and will now summon rebuttal witnesses for the final arguments.

Daniel abruptly halted the cross-examination at 2:42 p.m. EST Wednesday. He began questioning Calley Tuesday afternoon, and the probing had been expected to continue for several days.

After Daniel turned Calley back to the defense, he was asked a few more questions by his attorneys, and then the defense finally rested at 4:33 p.m. EST.

Calley has based his entire defense on the contention that whatever he did during the operation, he did on the direct orders of his superior, Capt. Ernest L. Medina, who is under investigation to determine whether he should stand court-martial for the My Lai affair.

Hearing was bugged

Agents expose Army spying

WASHINGTON—Former military undercover men testified Wednesday that the Army snooped on politicians, celebrities, civil rights leaders, radicals, reporters and thousands of ordinary Americans and kept personal files on them in big, centralized computers.

They said 1,500 Army plainclothes agents had infiltrated, photographed, recorded and watched over political picnics, party conventions, peace marches, a union meeting, Yippie communes, a church youth group and a drunken college brawl in Zap, N.D.

They charged that elaborate name files had been kept on such celebrities as Sen.

Adlai Stevenson III, D-Ill., and folksinger Judy Collins, as well as newspapermen who had written stories considered sympathetic with radical causes and citizens who, one way or another, had complained about the government or associated with someone who had.

Naming names, dates and places, former agents Christopher H. Pyle, Ralph M. Stein and John O'Brien went before the Senate constitutional rights subcommittee to document their assertion that military intelligence had intruded into American political affairs in a growing threat to the right of free

speech and military-civil separation.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said even the hearing itself was being watched. He said an Army military intelligence unit was taping the session.

Sen. Sam J. Ervin, D-N.C., charged that military spying was a direct threat to the first amendment of the Constitution.

"The purpose of the Army is to protect this country against foreign forces," he said. "The Army under no circumstances has any right under the Constitution to enter into this area except where it is apparent that civilian law enforcement officers have attempted to suppress violence and failed."

Abortion bill passes

RALEIGH—After a second day of emotional debate, the House passed by a close 60-54 vote a bill allowing a woman to get an abortion in North Carolina upon written request to her doctor.

Incorporated into the committee substitute was a floor amendment by Rep. Jimmy Johnson, R-Cabarrus, that a woman living with her husband must first get his consent for the abortion.

"This will satisfy the feelings that the

husband might be left out secretly," said Johnson in explaining the amendment during more than 90 minutes of debate. The bill now goes to the State Senate.

It requires that a woman be a resident of the state for at least 30 days, that the abortion be performed in a licensed hospital or medical facility and that the pregnancy be less than 12 weeks along unless there is a danger to a woman's mental or physical health.

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