

Chinese visit to Hanoi stirs intervention fear

HONG KONG—Premier Chou En-lai and two top Communist Chinese military leaders paid a surprise visit to North Vietnam last weekend, it was disclosed Monday. Analysts said the mysterious mission could signal a Communist escalation of the stakes in the Indochina War.

First diplomatic assessments of the Chou visit from sources in London said North Vietnam is in trouble and wants Communist China to help.

The London view, reported by UPI diplomatic correspondent K.C. Thaler, was underscored by analysts in this listening post on the fringes of China who said the visit was probably designed to demonstrate Red China's determination to maintain strong support for Communist forces in Indochina in the face of the U.S.-supported offensive by South Vietnamese troops in Laos.

Peking has promised full support to Indochinese Communists fighting "U.S. aggressors" but has never spelled out details and has stopped short of promising Chinese ground troops. But the memory of the Chinese offensive in Korea in the 1950s has caused some concern in U.S. quarters.

The Chou visit took on added significance in light of the statement by President Nguyen Van Thieu in Saigon last week that South Vietnam would act to defend itself by staging an offensive against North Vietnam if Hanoi did not stop the war in South Vietnam and withdraw its troops.

The North Vietnamese delegation at the peace talks in Paris said Monday that Chou, during his visit, reiterated previous Peking pledges. "The Chinese people resolutely support the resistance war of the Vietnamese people against American aggression, for national salvation and until total victory," Chou was quoted as saying when he arrived in Hanoi.

Radio Hanoi reported the Chou visit in a short bulletin which said the Chinese premier and six other Peking leaders arrived in the North Vietnamese capital last Friday and left Monday. The key members of the mission besides Chou were Yeh Chien-Ying and Chiu Hui-Tso, observers said in Hong Kong.

Yeh, one of 10 marshals of the Red Chinese armed forces before ranks were abolished a few years ago, is a ranking vice chairman of the military commission of the Chinese Communist Central Committee. This is the top policy-making body for military affairs in China.

Chiu is the top supply officer in the Chinese armed forces and the man responsible for fulfilling China's promises of military equipment for North Vietnam and other Communist interests in Indochina.

N. Viets rebuilding Laos supply routes

SAIGON—North Vietnamese truck traffic was reported Monday to have sharply increased toward the area in Laos where South Vietnamese troops are blocking the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Military sources said Hanoi had shifted its Laotian supply lines farther west into Laos.

The commander of the 20,000-man South Vietnamese task force cutting across the Ho Chi Minh Trail, Lt. Gen. Hoang Xuan Lam, said his troops had

destroyed 13,139 tons of Communist munitions in Laos.

U.S. pilots, flying as many as 1,000 sorties a day in the past week, were reported to have knocked out at least 800 North Vietnamese trucks. But military sources said Monday the flow had returned to a level of between 1,200 and 1,500 vehicles per day from a low of 500 to 600 which much of the traffic deeper inside Laos and above the area in which South Vietnamese troops were operating.

The North Vietnamese trucks normally carry reinforcements and supplies through Laos to Communist units in South Vietnam and Cambodia in addition to sustaining Hanoi's attempt to counter the South Vietnamese advances against the trail.

There have been fears in Saigon that the North Vietnamese force in Laos—as many as 20,000 men equipped with tanks—would launch a counterattack against South Vietnamese units which seized the Ho Chi Minh Trail hub at Sepone last Saturday. This and other developments may have prompted the visit to Hanoi last weekend by Premier Chou En-lai of Communist China and two high-ranking Chinese military leaders.

The report that North Vietnam had moved its supply lines in Laos coincided with disclosure by Laotian military headquarters in Vientiane that Communist engineers were building a new supply road 20 miles west of Sepone.

New fighting was reported inside Laos Monday as South Vietnamese units operating six miles from the South Vietnamese frontier battled North Vietnamese regulars in 18 hours of combat.

Air Force beginning drug help

WASHINGTON—The Air Force said Monday it was initiating a program to help airmen who admit taking drugs, but would reserve the right to take administrative action against them.

Spokesmen said the Air Force would not prosecute personnel who seek help, but would reserve the right to take action such as removal from flying status, reassignment or administrative discharge, which is considered an honorable discharge.

Both the Army and the Navy have drug programs which offer the user amnesty, but Air Force Chief of Staff John D. Ryan said the Air Force program would not go that far.

Of all the branches of service, only the Marine Corps offers a drug user no alternative to dishonorable discharge.



Guerrillas release 4 kidnaped airmen

WASHINGTON—The State Department reported Monday that four American airmen kidnaped in Turkey had been released and were safely back in their quarters.

A department spokesman said the men were released at 11:30 p.m. Turkish time, 4:30 p.m. EST. News of their release came in a telephone call from the U.S. embassy in Ankara to the State Department at 5 p.m. EST.

The department spokesmen said the embassy reported the men were in "good shape." The State Department had no further details on the men who were kidnaped Thursday by left-wing guerrillas.

The men were S. Sgt. Jimmie J. Sexton, San Angelo, Tex.; Airman 1. C. Larry S. Heavner, Denver, Colo.; Airman 1. C. James Gholson, Alexandria, Va.; and Airman 1. C. Richard Caraszi, of Stamford, Conn.

Just before the State Department announcement, a Turkish government

spokesman in Ankara said "we are pretty certain the four kidnaped Americans are alive. Our search measures have produced their first fruits and the whole thing should be cleared up in two or three days.

There had been no word whether the 30,000 troops or police mobilized to help in the search had found any clues to the whereabouts of the kidnapers or their captives.

The airmen were kidnaped last Thursday by guerrillas of the so-called Turkish Peoples Liberation Army. The kidnapers demanded \$400,000 ransom by last Saturday morning or they said the hostages would be executed. The government refused to bargain and did not pay the ransom.

Troops with mine detectors roamed Ankara's Middle East Technical University, searching the grounds and six miles of underground tunnels that honeycomb the area carrying the campus heating system.

Medina on trial for My Lai

FT. McPHERSON, Ga.—Capt. Ernest L. Medina was ordered to face a life-or-death court martial as the officer with overall responsibility for the massacre of at least 102 Vietnamese civilians at My Lai.

The Army said Medina, a 34-year-old career soldier from Montrose, Colo., would be tried by a general court on five specifications, three alleging premeditated murder of 102 civilians and two of assault by shooting at a Viet Cong suspect during interrogation.

One of Medina's subordinates, Lt. William L. Calley Jr., is currently undergoing a similar court martial at Ft. Benning, Ga., and could also be sentenced to death.

Calley and 20 witnesses have testified it was Medina who ordered the destruction of all living things at the Vietnamese village March 16, 1968.

Lt. Gen. Albert O. Connor, commanding general of the Third Army here who ordered the court martial, said two other specifications of murder and one of maiming were dismissed for lack of sufficient evidence.

Medina said in a statement in Washington when the announcement of the court martial was made, "I am innocent of the charges against me."

He added in a cryptic statement, "the Army itself has a special reason to know this."

Two of the murder charges against Medina alleged the shooting of a Vietnamese man and a woman. The third alleged he murdered "an unknown number of identified Vietnamese persons, not less than 100, by means of shooting these persons with machine guns, rifles and other weapons."

Court says 'all wars' for CO's

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court ruled Monday that young men seeking conscientious objector status to avoid the draft must oppose all wars, not just one in particular such as Vietnam.

The 8-1 decision written by Justice Thurgood Marshall closed the legal door to a growing number of draft eligibles who claim exemption because of their conscientious scruples solely against U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Justice William O. Douglas cast the dissenting vote.

Marshall held in two far-reaching test cases that Congress in enacting the Selective Service law intended to exempt only those "who oppose participation in all war—participation in war in any form."

Rejecting the appeals of two men convicted of draft violations, he said for the court:

"Persons who object solely to participation in a particular war are not within the purview of the exempting

section even though the latter objection may have such roots in a claimant's conscience and personality that it is religious in character."

Douglas protested the decision in these words: "conscience is repudiated... the court has done violence to the basic philosophy of the First Amendment and we take a step backward."

The conscientious objector cases were brought by Guy Porter Gillette of New York City, who was sentenced to two

years in jail for refusing to report for induction, and Louis A. Negre of Bakersfield, Calif., who sought to get out of the service after he had been drafted.

Gillette wrote a letter to his draft board terming the Vietnam War "unjust and illegal." Negre said if he were to go to Vietnam "I would be violating my own concepts of natural law and would be going against all that I had been taught in my religious training."

SPEAK OUT ON THE INFIRMARY

FILL IN YOUR OWN STATEMENT & BRING IT TO THE OPEN MEETING:

Lined area for writing a statement.

4:00 P.M. TUESDAY, MARCH 9
ROOM 202-204, STUDENT UNION