

Fighting Only 2 Miles From Capital

War Nears Saigon Doors

SAIGON (AP) — A hamlet battle brought the war to Saigon's doorstep again last night. Flare planes lighted the sky as defenders beat off a Viet Cong assault on Tan Phu, less than two miles from the capital's Tan Son Nhut seaport.

Artillery firing could be heard clearly within the city. A military spokesman said the raiders attacked with grenades and small arms. There was no report of casualties on either side.

Battle reports Thursday told of the death of 501 Communists in widely scattered actions. Vietnamese troops, planes and artillery were reported to have accounted for 222 of these in turning back

heavy Viet Cong night attacks on two government posts 100 miles apart.

U. S. Air squadrons hit again at Communist targets both north and south or border. Pilots reported that among 67 missions over North Viet Nam Wednesday, bombing and strafing attacks left the wreckage of 19 trucks clogging Mui Pass, one funnel to the Ho Chi Minh supply trail.

as light. South Viet Nam's armed forces, however, are still suffering most of the allied casualties in the war.

Announcements today disclosed South Vietnamese losses rose last week while the American combat toll declined, along with that of the Communists.

The U. S. military command said 80 Americans were

killed, 816 wounded and 17 missing or captured, against 160 killed, 808 wounded and eight missing or captured in the week of March 6-12. The American death toll throughout the war rose to 2,186.

South Viet Nam's armed forces lost 232 killed and 73 missing. That compared with 131 killed and 97 missing the previous week.

Stray H-Bomb Being Moved For Recovery

PALOMARES BEACH, Spain (AP) — A U. S. Naval Task Force is dragging the long missing H-bomb into a favorable position in the sea from where it may be recovered, the Spanish government announced last night.

Spanish officials were hesitant to say exactly when recovery was expected. But they said a plan of operation selected by Rear Adm. William S. Guest, commanding the highly specialized task force 65, was in progress.

This was described in knowledgeable circles as moving the nuclear weapon, lost from a crashing B152 bomber last Jan. 17, off a 70-degree slope where it was last reported, and dragging it well inshore from its position five miles from this beach. There divers or frogmen might retrieve it.

Such an operation was described as time-consuming even with favorable weather and could account for much of the delay since the bomb was located by the midget submarine Alvin in 2,500 feet of water a week ago.

U. S. officials hedged at outright confirmation but admitted that the plan was as described.

How long it would take to move the H-bomb and its attached parachute shoreward into a hundred feet or less could not be estimated.

Gov. Stalls On Requests, Awaits Financial Reports

RALEIGH (AP) — Gov. Dan Moore indicated Thursday any decision on major new budget requests for public education would be premature until the state's financial status is known early next year.

The governor told his weekly news conference, "we do not at this time have adequate information as to the needs and resources. We will have adequate information on which to base needs by the convening of the 1967 General Assembly."

The comments were in reference to the \$130 million legislative program unveiled Monday by the United Forces of Education and talk of a \$100 million bond issue for capital improvements at tax-supported colleges and universities.

While the fiscal outlook for 1967 is good, Gov. Moore said, "we don't know what the situation will be at the end of this biennium. That is purely conjecture."

He said the needs of higher and public education will not be known until the Advisory Budget Commission completes its hearings in the fall.

Moore said "public education is the most important part of state government and we will do everything possible in higher and public education."

He noted education presently received 67 cents of every general fund dollar and received a record appropriation increase of \$106 million from the last legislature.

"There are demands on state

government other than education," he said. "We will meet the needs of all agencies as nearly as possible."

The \$100 million bond issue

for buildings at higher education institutions was endorsed by the UFE and has gained support from other educators.

Sexpots 'Bad' For Men

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The "Chaplain of Bourbon Street" claimed today the visits of Hollywood starlets to Viet Nam have done more to undermine morale of American fighting men that Viet Cong bullets.

"One sexpot can undo the work of 100 chaplains," said the Rev. Bob Harrington, just returned from a 10-day trip to the embattled country.

The burly "Brother Bob," an evangelist whose trademark consists of red socks, red necktie and a large Bible tucked under one arm, gave this appraisal:

"After the visit of one of these voluptuous entertainers and her return to the U. S., the boys are so stirred up that things begin to happen. Consultations with the chaplain, chapel attendance and letters home to mother fall off alarmingly."

"The incidence of venereal disease skyrockets. And believe me, there is ample opportunity to satiate one's lust in Viet Nam. There are what is known as Saigon tea girls coming out of every nook and cranny."

On the other hand, said the

Southern Baptist minister, "there is nothing more heartening and inspirational to the boys than wholesome performances by such stars as Bob Hope, Martha Ray, Roy Rogers, and Tennessee Ernie Ford. These entertainers are a great antidote for the loneliness that grips the boys on the front lines."

S. C. Representatives

OK Attendance

COLUMBIA (AP) — The South Carolina House of Representatives approved a watered-down version of a compulsory school attendance bill today, after exempting 15 counties from its provisions.

However included is an amendment by Rep. Theodore Guerard of Charleston which provides that if any sections of the bill are held unconstitutional the remainder of the proposed act would remain in force.

Highly suspect from a constitutional standpoint are a series of amendments which exempt 15 counties from provisions of the bill.

Soldiers Decorated

FT. BRAGG, N. C. (AP) — MSgt. Dallas W. Johnson, 36, of Neesho, Mo., received the Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in Viet Nam in ceremonies at Ft. Bragg Wednesday.

Sgt. Kenneth D. Wheeler, 22, of North Ford, Calif., also was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry.

The two are members of the Special Forces, which has its headquarters at the U. S. Army John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare at Ft. Bragg.

Gunners aboard U. S. 7th Fleet destroyers in the South China Sea joined air and ground forces in hammering at red holdings between allied coastal strongholds.

Bodies of 32 guerrillas were lined up for exhibition to passersby on highway no. 13 near a Government armed regiment's headquarters at Go Dau, 12 miles north of Saigon. In all, 71 from an assault force of perhaps 700 were reported slain in that area.

A post at Bu Prang, 112 miles northeast of Saigon, was the other Red target. A Communist battalion struck before dawn. Flare planes, combat jets and distant artillery batteries joined the defense in a five-hour fight. The Vietnamese said the Communists, in retreat, left behind 151 dead and a variety of weapons including a recoilless rifle and three 50-caliber machine guns. Vietnamese losses in both engagements were described

Sukarno Firm On Cabinet

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — President Sukarno apparently stood firm today against the appointment of a new anti-Communist cabinet.

Sukarno met with the President of Civilian and Military Leaders without reaching any agreement on the composition of the cabinet the new regime has been trying to form for four days.

While Sukarno has been shorn of all real power, the government of Indonesian strongman Lt. Gen. Suharto still wants his assent for important decisions.

Suharto has respected Sukarno's constitutional position as chief of state and officially maintains that the new regime is acting under the president's orders.

But Suharto and his backers know they have to make a start, with a new cabinet, on restoring Indonesia's sagging economy.

Unless the new regime acts soon, the Anti-Communist students may again take to the streets in demonstrations. They are the ones who toppled Sukarno's old cabinet, largely made up of Communists or Pro-Communists.

Islamic members of the lower house urged Suharto to restore to Parliament "its real authority and function." It had been converted into a rubber stamp by Sukarno.

The powerful Moselem Nahdatul Ulama Party and the Catholic Party issued statements in support of Suharto. The Moslems called for a crackdown on graft and corruption and urged the government to seek foreign aid without strings attached.

The Catholics urged a Foreign policy "independent and active and guided by national interests." This was an attack on Subandrio's Pro-Red Chinese policy.

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