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77 MISSIONS AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM ON FRIDAY

SAIGON, March 18 (VP)-- U.S. pilots flew 77 missions in North Vietnam yesterday, hitting lines of communication, storage, staging and military areas, a radar site and defense positions, American military sources said.

Weather was generally poor throughout the North, with low overcast and haze reported. Pilots reported light to heavy anti-aircraft fire over the target areas.

Air Force Thunder chief and Phantom pilots flew 35 missions on road segments, gun positions and transportation and military areas in the Panhandle. Roads were cut in 18 places, two AAA sites and 15 waterborne logistics craft were destroyed or damaged. Three secondary explosions were set off.

Air Force Thunderchief pilots attacked 75 waterborne logistics craft during a raid, 118 km (74 miles) west-northwest of Vinh. Pilots reported destroying 15 craft and damaging many others.

Flights of Thunderchief and Phantom pilots struck a 15 to 20 truck convoy, 10km (6 miles) north of Mu Gia Pass. Pilots started three fires and cut roads in several locations.

Three secondary explosions were set off by Air Force pilots during a strike on two AAA sites, 182km (114 miles) west-northwest of Vinh.

Navy carrier-based Skyraider, Skyhawk, Phantom and Crusader pilots concentrated on waterborne logistics craft off the coast of North Vietnam and its inland waterways during 32 missions yesterday. Pilots destroyed three craft and damaged 14. Pilots also damaged in highway ferry and a radar site and destroyed three trucks.

Navy Skyraider pilots from the USS HANCOCK hit a radar site, 19km (12 miles) southeast of Vinh yesterday, damaging the site. Flights of Skyhawk and Phantom pilots from the USS KITTY HAWK struck a railroad spur, 6 km (4 miles) southwest of Thanh Hoa, a transshipment point, 38km (24 miles) east of Hai Phong and a military complex, 51km (32 miles) northeast of Thanh Hoa. Poor weather hampered bomb damage assessment. Skyhawk pilots from Carrier Air wing 21 (CAW-21) hit a truck concentration, 27 km (23 miles) south of Dong Hoi, destroying three trucks.

Marine Corps Skyhawk, Phantom, Intruder and Crusader pilots flew 10 missions in the Southern Panhandle yesterday, hitting lines of communication, storage areas and military areas. Three fortified positions were destroyed and roads were cut in two places.

A U.S. Navy A-1 Skyraider was downed by suspected ground fire over North Vietnam yesterday, 35 km (22 miles) north-northeast of Dong Hoi. The pilot was rescued. (PD-22)

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28 VC KILLED ON HILL 86 NEAR TUY HOA

SAIGON, March. 18 (VP)-- Task Force Ivy units killed 28 enemy yesterday afternoon during a combat assault on Hill 86, 13km (8 miles) west of Tuy Hoa, an American military spokesman reported. There were no friendly casualties. The friendly unit is composed of a multi-battalion force from the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and the 101st Airborne Division. The hill was the scene of a battle on 9 March in which a platoon from the 1st Brigade suffered heavy casualties.

South of Hill 86, a company of the Infantry was fired on by small arms and automatic weapons. Air strikes were called in and the company made a sweep of the area, detaining 12 persons. One U.S. was wounded.

Meanwhile, units of the 7th Marines reported light and scattered actions in the Le Soto operational area 40 km (24 miles) south-southeast of Quang Ngai City in Quang Ngai Province, resulting in 12 enemy killed. Seven Marines were killed and 11 wounded during yesterday's actions.

Marine jet pilots flew 4 direct support sorties bringing the total number of sorties flown in support of the joint ground-air operation to 654. Since the operation began on 26 January, 44 U.S. Marines, 280 enemy have been killed and 396 U.S. wounded, 69 suspects have been detained and 17 individual weapons captured. Ships of the Seventh Fleet have provided 197 naval gunfire support missions.

In operation Prairie II, at 0706H yesterday, artillery fire killed 20 enemy in the operation area, 30km (19 miles) northwest of Quang Tri City in Quang Tri Province.

Units from the 3d, 4th and 9th Marines reported light and scattered actions in the area of operation Prairie II resulting in 19 enemy killed. One Marine was killed and six wounded during yesterday's actions. Marine pilots flew 39 direct support sorties yesterday, bringing the total number of sorties flown in support of the joint ground-air operation to 577. Since Prairie II began on 1 February, 661 enemy have been killed, 221 suspects detained, 110 individual weapons and 23 crew-served weapons captured. Eighty-five Marines have been killed and 449 wounded.

Also in Quang Tri province, a sweep of the area of the 9th Marines contact reported yesterday, 5km (3 miles) northwest of Khe Canh, has produced 11 enemy bodies. The enemy force was estimated to be an NVA company. Eighteen Marines were killed and 58 wounded during the contact.

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28 VC KILLED....(2)

In light and scattered actions in the Pershing operation area 85km (53 miles) northwest of Qui Nhon in Binh Binh Province, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) troopers and Infantrymen of the 3d Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division, yesterday killed 17 enemy, detained 120 suspects and captured seven individual weapons. Air Force pilots flew 21 direct support sorties yesterday bringing the total number of sorties support of the joint ground-air operation to 614. Since Pershing began on 12 February, 697 enemy have been killed, 3,926 suspects detained, 199 individual weapons and 13 crew-served weapons captured. Seventh Fleet ships have fired 468 naval gunfire missions in support of the operation. U.S. losses have been 110 soldiers killed, 468 wounded and two missing in action.

In Long An province, elements of the 9th Infantry Division, supported by air strikes and artillery, killed 14 enemy yesterday during small unit contacts in Operation Enterprise taking place in an area, 30 km (19 miles) southwest of Saigon. There were no friendly casualties.

Besides in Nha Trang, OIIG (Civilian Irregular Defense Group) soldiers made 23 contacts with enemy units yesterday resulting in 24 enemy killed, eight suspects detained and 20 weapons captured, their 5th special Forces advisors report. Friendly casualties were light including one U.S. Special Forces trooper wounded. (PD-22)

7th FLEET SHIP HIT BY SHORE BATTERY NEAR DMZ

SAIGON, Mar. 18 (VP)-- The Seventh Fleet destroyer, USS STODDARD while on routine patrol 9km (6 miles) North of the Demilitarized Zone took fire from a shore battery at 1850H yesterday. The STODDARD suffered a 10 inch by 18 inch hole above the waterline, on the starboard side. Fire was returned and the shore battery was silenced. The hole was plugged. There were no friendly casualties.

U.S. Navy units on Game Warden patrols in the Rung Sat Special Zone and Mekong Delta areas inspected or boarded and searched 1,125 vessels yesterday. There were 25 persons detained and one junk held.

U.S. Navy and Coast Guard Market Time coastal patrols inspected or boarded and searched 2,384 vessels during patrolling action yesterday. (PD-22)

525 SORTIES IN REPUBLIC FRIDAY

SAIGON, March 18 (VP) -- U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps pilots flew 525 sorties in the Republic yesterday, including 196 in support of ground operations, US military sources said. Pilots struck troop concentrations, fortified positions and water traffic.

Air Force pilots flew 289 sorties including 147 in support of ground operations. Pilots were credited with destroying or damaging 12 fortified positions and destroying six sampans.

Marine Corps pilots flew 236 sorties yesterday, including 49 support of three Marine ground operations. Pilots damaged or destroyed 111 fortified positions and set off three secondary explosions and started two fires.

A Marine A-4C Skyhawk was downed yesterday by unknown causes 21km (13 miles) north-northwest of Chu Lai in Quang Tin Province. The pilot is listed as missing in action.

Meanwhile Air Force B-52 crews have struck three times in the Republic since yesterday afternoon, an American military spokesman reported.

Late yesterday afternoon, they hit enemy base camps in Phuoc Dong Province, 21km (13 miles) northwest of Phuoc Binh.

This morning, Stratofortress crews hit enemy base camps in Phuoc Tuy Province, 23 km (14 miles) northeast of Ba Ria and troop concentrations 30km (19 miles) west of Hue in Thua Thien Province. (PD-22)

PHILIPPINE TRADE DELEGATION LEAVES SAIGON

SAIGON, March 19 (VP) -- The 17-man Philippine Trade delegation left Saigon for Seoul yesterday morning after a five-day visit to Vietnam.

According to delegation leader Clemente C. Abella, the delegation got satisfactory results during its visit. He expressed the hope that this visit would lay the foundation for the strengthening of trade relations between the Saigon and Manila chambers of Commerce.

On hand to see the Philippine delegation off at Tan Son Nhat Airport were Mr. Tran Van Lee, chairman of the Saigon Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Nguyen Huu Pha, Deputy Chairman; Mr. Fermin Mesina, Commerce Attache at the Philippine Embassy in Saigon and a large number of Vietnamese businessmen.

PHILIPPINE TRADE....(2)

During its stay here, the Philippine Trade delegation, which arrived in Saigon last March 3, with Vietnamese businessmen signed several agreements worth about VN\$40 million (two million peso.). The delegation also conferred with the Vietnamese authorities and visited some industrial installations in the Republic.

Besides, the delegation attended "the Philippine Day held last Friday at the Saigon Chamber of Commerce with view to strengthen trade relations between the two countries. (PD-14)

G.A. COMPLETES RATIFICATION OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION

SAIGON, March 19 (VP)-- The Constituent Assembly, at its yesterday afternoon's plenary session, completed the ratification of the Draft Constitution's full text including nine chapters (117 articles)

At the session, 102 deputies in attendance unanimously took the oath to respect and safeguard the Constitution.

Earlier, the Constituent Assembly approved the amendments of articles 109, 110 and 111 of Chapter IX on "Transitional Provisions".

The amended articles 109, 110 and 111 read as follows:

"Art 109:

During the transitional period, the Constituent Assembly elected September 9, 1966, will represent the people in the legislative domain:

1.- To draft and ratify laws governing the election of the President, Vice-President, the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the organization of the Supreme Court and the Inspectorate as well as regulations governing the political parties and the press.

2.- To ratify treaties.

"Art 110:

The Constituent Assembly elected September 9, 1966 will assume the legislative powers established by this Constitution from the day when the first President and Vice President take office until the first National Assembly have been established.

"Art. 111:

During the transitional period, the National Leadership Committee and the Central Executive Committee will continue to assume the executive powers until the first President and Vice-President have taken office."

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C.A. COMPLETES....(2)

At the same meeting, the Assembly amended the Constitution's Preamble by abolishing the phrase: "... responsible before the Almighty."

Also present at yesterday afternoon's plenary session were Vietnamese and foreign newsmen, Mrs. Tran Van Van, widow of the late deputy slain by VC terrorists and a number of other guests. (PD-34)

FLOOD VICTIMS TO RECEIVE GOVERNMENT LOANS

SAIGON, March 19 (VP)-- Prime Minister Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky yesterday signed a decree authorizing the National Budget to provide the Agricultural Development Bank with an allocation of VN\$175,000,000 to be loaned to flood victims in the Mekong river Delta for the reconstruction of their homes.

According to the decree, the Social Welfare and Agriculture Departments will set forth the loan conditions and the refunding procedures.

Also yesterday, the Prime Minister signed another decree authorizing the National Budget to grant the ADB VN\$200,000,000 for the implementation of the Special Agricultural Credit Program in new-life hamlets. The program lies within the framework of the Revolutionary Development project of this year.

The Agriculture Department will set forth the loan conditions, the percentage of interest as well as the refunding procedures. (PD-22)

MR. NGUYEN XUAN PHONG VISITS WELFARE FACILITIES
IN KHANH HOA

NHA TRANG, March 19 (VP)-- During his visit to Nha Trang on Friday, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phong, Social Welfare Secretary, agreed to establish a reformatory camp for juvenile offenders and a center for the protection of women and children in Khanh Hoa province.

Mr. Phan Ngoc Tien, Khanh Hoa Social Welfare Service Chief, escorted Mr. Phong and the Social Welfare delegation to visit a reformatory camp for prostitutes which was set up last Feb. 25

Later, Mr. Phong visited the Nha Trang students' low-cost restaurant the Khanh Hoa Social Welfare Service and the Nui San Leper-hospital.

MR. NGUYEN XUAN PHONG VISITS (2)

Before returning to Saigon, the Social Welfare Secretary called at the Nha Trang Protestant orphanage under the direction of pastor Le Van Thai.

This orphanage is attending to 242 orphans of various races, Thai, Cham, Khmer and Vietnam, from 3 to 16 years-old.

On this occasion, Secretary Phong decided to grant an allowance of VN\$600,000 to the orphanage. (PD/14)

VIETNAM ATOMIC ENERGY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS
IN DALAT

DALAT, March. 19 (VP)--Dr Nguyen Van Tho, Education Secretary and concurrently Chairman of the Vietnam Atomic Energy Office's Executive Board, presided over the annual assembly of the Board held yesterday morning at the Nuclear Research Center in Dalat.

Secretary Tho recommended the executive board to focus its activities in 1967 on goals of practical applications, particularly in the fields of health and agriculture. Dr Tho also gave instructions for the establishment of an institution in charge of teaching nuclear subjects to university students in order to prepare for the training of nuclear experts and technicians and to disseminate nuclear knowledge among the public.

Earlier, Prof. Le Van Thai, the office Director, briefed the audience on the VAO activities of last year as well as its draft autonomous fund for the 1967 fiscal year and proposed an action program for this year.

The meeting ended at noon. The Education Secretary and members of the Board were then shown around the Center's facilities by Prof. Thai.

Members of the VAO Executive Board are Dr Tran Huu Duc, Dr Le Nhan Thuan, Engrs. Tran Van Bach, Nguyen Huy Dang and Nguyen Tu, representatives of the Defense Ministry, the Health, Public Works, Agriculture Departments and the Planning Directorate General respectively. (PD/22)

VC MURDER POLICEMAN IN GIA DINH

SAIGON, Mar. 19 (VP)--One policeman was killed by two Viet Cong terrorists Friday night at his home Binh Khanh district, Gia Dinh province. Eight other persons including five children were wounded in the incident.

VC MURDER POLICEMAN...(2)

The victim is Mr. Tran Van Cho working at the provincial Police Service. The terrorists fired several machine-gun rounds into the victim's home when he and the eight other people were watching television.

Investigation is under way. (PD-22)

ECONOMY MINISTER ON INFLATION, FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEMS

SAIGON, March. 19 (VP)-- Mr. Nguyen Huu Hanh, new Economy and Finance Minister, at a press conference held yesterday said that emergency measures will be adopted to settle the inflation and the food supply problems.

Dealing with the measures against inflation, the Economy and Finance Minister pointed to such projects as the limitation of expenditure of national budget, improvement of taxation system, control of credit, decongestion of goods at the Saigon Port, and improvement of goods distribution system.

He also said that in a near future safety supply stores will be established to provide the market more regularly with first necessities.

Meanwhile, the government will also call for the Commercial Banks to help businessmen and adopt emergency measures to enlarge seaports in Central and Western Vietnam.

Dealing with the rice problem, Minister Hanh said that before taking office, he had proposed and helped the government apply emergency measures to settle the supply problem. The Supply Authorities had been ordered to concentrate all its efforts in the distribution of rice to the people. Meanwhile, the government asked the cereal dealers to sell rice to the government at price lower than that in the free market.

The Economy and Finance Minister added that his Ministry had asked the United States to provide Vietnam with 750,000 tons of rice for this year besides the import of 200,000 tons from Thailand. The total quantity of imported rice in 1967 will be approximately one million tons.

The Minister also mentioned the supply of pork. According to him, the government will normalize the pork market by encouraging the raising and transportation of pigs to the capital and limiting unreasonable and unefficient controls. If necessary, the government will import frozen pork.

ECONOMY MINISTER (2)

On this occasion, the new Economy and Finance Minister announced some main features of his ministry's new policy.

The Economy and Finance Ministry will boost all existing industrial branches, and establish new ones, besides the setting up of the Industrial Development Bank and the Agriculture Bank. The financial Aid Fund at the National Bank will also be reestablished.

The Minister revealed that all the taxes collected in 1967 could compensate only 50 percent of the expenditures of the national budget.

He said that his ministry will closely cooperate with the allied authorities, especially the United States, to limit to the minimum, disturbances in the local market caused by the large expenditures of the allied forces.

Also present at the press conference were Mrs. Nguyen Hau Hung, Labor Secretary, Mr. Tryong Van Thuan, Communication and Transportation Secretary, Mr. Tran Van Kien, Finance Secretary, Mr. Nguyen Kien Thien An, Commerce Secretary, Mr. La Thanh Nghe, Handicraft and Industry Secretary and Mr. Tran Do Cung, Supply Authority Director General. (PD/34)

TUYEN DUC, BINH LONG MASS RALLIES PROTEST "FALSE PEACE" CAMPAIGNS

SAIGON, March. 19 (VP)--Over 10,000 inhabitants in Tuyen Duc and Binh Long provinces demonstrated last Thursday at Duc Trong and Dinh Quan district towns to condemn the Colonialist-Communist henchmen for establishing a Government-in-exile in France and the advocates of "false peace" campaigns.

The demonstrators adopted resolutions to be sent to Directory Chairman Lt. Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu and Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky.

The resolutions denounced the dark plot of the Colonialists and Communists in establishing the Government in exile and launching "false peace" campaigns.

The demonstrators also pledged full support to the War Cabinet and the Armed Forces in the fight against the Communists in order to bring genuine peace to the nation. (PD/14)

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INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BANK TO BE ESTABLISHED

SAIGON, (VP) March, 17--"The Republic of Vietnam will establish an Industry Development Bank" in a near future. The Bank will provide funds for industrialists and financial support to companies for the development of the country's activities."

This statement was made by Mr. La Thanh Nghe, Craft and Industry Secretary, at a Press Conference held at the Craft and Industry Department yesterday afternoon. The Secretary added that this is one of the projects his Department will carry out in 1967.

Referring to the Craft and Industry Department's policy, Mr. La Thanh Nghe emphasized that since Vietnam is an agricultural country, his Department will base its activities on the agricultural foundation to develop the Industry. Therefore, its main tasks will be concentrated in industries serving the increase of farm production, such as fertilizer, farm equipment, et...

The Craft and Industry Secretary added that the Department will apply necessary measures to create an atmosphere of confidence and enthusiasm among the industrialist circles by eliminating elements which are disadvantageous to the national Industry, protecting the Vietnamese production, increasing industrial production and the quality of goods.

Dealing with the Department's activities for fiscal year 1967, Mr. La Thanh Nghe said that the Department will organize several exhibits to present Vietnamese goods to local and foreign consumers.

Meanwhile, it will also support the handicraft and small industry, with financial and technical help and the setting up of a Handicraft supply center and Security store to provide them with raw materials.

Regarding the investment problem, Secretary Nghe said that his Department will revise investing regulations to safeguard the interests of the Vietnamese workers, especially in their recruitment and the training of specialists.

Secretary Nghe also disclosed that in its 1967 activities program, the Department will push forward the setting up of Craft and Industry quarters in provinces, particularly in densely populated ones.

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INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT (2)

The Department will also promote the realization of a series of big projects for this year, including the establishment of oil refinery, chemical fertilizer, and electricity plants, totalling US\$120 million.

The Department also advocates a close cooperation with the relating agencies from Allied Countries and International organisations, in order to complete the Cam Ranh program, the Development of Mekong Delta and Dong Thap Muoi areas.

Present at the press Conference were Mr. Nguyen Huu Thoi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Craft Industry and Commerce, Mr. Khuong Huu Dieu, Industry Development Director; Mr. Buu Tho, Handicraft Development Director; Maj. Tran Van An, Information and Press Director and a number of Saigon newsmen.

(PD/14-24)

MR. NGUYEN HUU HANH, TAKES OVER AS ECONOMY MINISTER

SAIGON, March. 19 (VP)--The change-over ceremony between the new Finance and Economy Minister Nguyen Huu Hanh and the outgoing Minister, Mr. Truong Thai Ton, took place yesterday morning at the Finance and Economy Ministry on Gia Long street.

Present at the ceremony were Mr. Nguyen Kien Thien An, Commerce Secretary; Prof. Tran Van Kien, Finance Secretary, Eng. Truong Van Thuan, Transportation and Communications Secretary; and Mr. Pham Kim Ngoc, Secretary of State Assistant for Economy. (PD/14)

GEN. WHEELER VISITS GEN. CAO VAN VIEN

SAIGON, March. 19 (VP)--Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Friday afternoon visited Gen. Cao Van Vien, Chief of R. V.N. Armed Forces General Staff and Defense Minister.

On Friday morning, Gen. Vien also received Dr. Webb, of the International Red Cross and Gen. Bruce Palmer, Commander of the 2nd U.S. Field Force. (PD/14)

EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION ELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD

SAIGON, March. 19 (VP)--The Vietnam Employers Association on Friday held an annual convention at 51 Chuong Duong Quay to elect its new Executive Board.

Elected were:

- Chairman of the Executive Board: Mr. Hoa Van Mui
- 1st Deputy Chairman : Mr. Nguyen Phuoc Vong
- 2nd Deputy Chairman : Mr. Tran Ngoc Giu
- Secretary General : Mr. Nguyen Trung Thanh
- Secretary : Mr. Nguyen Dang Ung
- Treasurer : Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai
- Deputy Treasurer : Mr. Bui Khac Chien
- Controllers : Messrs. Nguyen Huu Hoan, Nguyen Trung Lanh, Nguyen Xuan Can, and Ly Hoi Dai.

At the meeting, the Convention also appointed an Advisory Group including Messrs. Nguyen Tri Do, Ho Van Lanh, Bernard Van Vi, Phan Ba Thuc, Phung Van Duoc, Tran Ngoc Trinh, Ngo Nha Boi, Nguyen Huu That and three representatives of the French Chamber of Commerce. (PD/14)

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES NEW POLITICAL ORGANIZATION'S REPRESENTATIVES

SAIGON, March. 19 (VP)--Prime Minister Air Vice Marshal Nguyen Cao Ky, yesterday morning received at Independence Palace a delegation representing the "People's Committee Struggling for National Self-Determination Right".

The meeting lasted half an hour. The six-man delegation was led by Mr. Nguyen Long.

The "People's Committee struggling for National Self-Determination Right" established recently with representatives from six religious groups gives itself the responsibility of actively participating in the task of national salvation and safeguarding the self-determination right of the nation.

(PD/14)

A S I A

**NEW IDEAS FOR VN PEACE BEING DISCUSSED:
THANT**

UNITED NATIONS, March. 18 (AP)--U.N. Secretary-General U. Thant said Saturday that "there have been discussions of new ideas from here and there" in the quest for a peaceful settlement of the war in Vietnam. But he could not tell reporters what the new ideas were.

He answered their questions as he arrived for work. A U.N. spokesman said Friday that Thant himself was quietly continuing his efforts to get a settlement.

**RATIO OF US WOUNDED TO DEAD INCREASES
IN VN**

WASHINGTON, March. 19 (UPI)--The ratio of U.S. wounded to dead has increased in Vietnam this year despite Communist introduction of some heavier weapons, the Defense Department reported Saturday.

With 9,924 non-fatal casualties compared with 1,159 killed in action so far in 1967, the ratio of wounded to dead since January 1 was given as better than 6 to 1.

The same ratios were only 2.3 and 3.1 to 1 respectively in World War II and Korea.

A Pentagon spokesman said that the 1967 ratio also has been higher than the over-all average for the Vietnamese war.

Since 1961, 46,728 Americans have been wounded, slightly less than 5.8 times the 8,075 who have been killed in action. The ratio was almost 6 to 1 for 1966.

The figures were cited as evidence that the Communists in Vietnam still lack the artillery and other heavy weapons that killed the majority of soldiers lost in the earlier conflicts.

More than 57 per cent of the battle deaths in World War II, and more than 48 per cent of those in Korea, were attributed to artillery and mortars.

Recently the Communists in Vietnam have attacked in small numbers with 140 mm Soviet rockets weighing 75 pounds each, and with a Chinese-made 4.2-inch mortar which duplicates one of the heaviest in the hands of U.S. troops.

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WASU... RATIO OF US ... (2)

FRONT

But the spokesman said these have not yet changed the predominantly guerrilla-type nature of the fighting.

Prompt evacuation of the wounded by helicopter also has tended to increase slightly the proportion of wounded. Latest figures showed that less than 1 per cent of the wounded die, compared to .5 per cent in Korea and 4.5 per cent in World War II.

The total of U.S. wounded in Vietnam now is nearly half of the 103,000 non-fatal casualties, but battle death still are only one-fourth of the 33,000 Americans killed in the Korean fighting.

LBJ TO STRESS "THE OTHER WAR" IN VN IN GUAM MEET

WASHINGTON, March. 18 (AP)--President Johnson plans to stress 'the other war' in Vietnam--the civilian development campaign -- in his two-day meeting at Guam with American and Vietnamese leaders.

This advance notice was given to newsmen as the President readied for take-off around midnight Saturday night on the 8,000-mile (12,874km) flight to his third Pacific strategy conference on the conflict in Southeast Asia.

White House aides figured the big presidential jetliner, with a refueling stop at Honolulu or Anchorage, Alaska, would take 18 hours to reach the tiny American island in the Far Pacific.

To sit in on the first day of the conference were South Vietnamese leaders headed by the Chief of State Nguyen Van Thieu and Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky.

Administration officials said Saturday there would be no major military decisions made or announced at Guam.

The officials emphasized the President's theme that the most important effort in South Vietnam for the long run is the building of a democratic society there that can stand on its own against any internal threat.

LBJ TO STRESS (2)

This "other war" program includes the current process of drawing up a constitution and shifting from a military to a civilian government, the assignment of pacification teams to villages cleared of Viet Cong guerrillas and economic projects ranging from school building to improving harvests.

The officials also said:

--Ky and Thieu asked to attend the conference and Washington welcomed this, particularly because the discussion involves their country.

--The attendance of the South Vietnamese military junta leaders will not mean any U.S. endorsement of them in the forthcoming South Vietnamese political race. From this standpoint, it is better for them to confer with the Americans now than after the South Vietnamese election campaign gets under way.

--Peace moves promoted by U.N. Secretary-General U Thant and others still have produced no change in Hanoi's position. North Vietnam is demanding an unconditional halt to the U.S. bombing as a price for peace talks, without a corresponding military cutback on her part, and these terms are unacceptable to the United States.

THANG DEFENDS VN PACIFICATION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, March. 18 (AP)--South Vietnam's Minister of Revolutionary Development said Saturday the pacification program has been stepped up and 'may be three to four years from now we can see the end of the war.'

The Vietnamese leader Major General Nguyen Duc Thang, at the same time disputed criticism that the 'new life' hamlet program is moving too slowly.

"We don't want to go beyond our capacity and fall into the error of spectacular statistics," Thang told a news conference in advance of his flight to Guam for the conference on Vietnam.

He said it is important to build a solid foundation and 'no one can press us to do something just for statistics and publicity.'

The non-military campaign to help wipe out the Communist threat by strengthening the civilian society in South Vietnam is a principal item on the Guam agenda. President Johnson is sending his assistant, Robert W. Komer, to Saigon to bolster the program.

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THANG DEFENDS (2)

Thang said he was not directing his remarks at retiring U.S. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, who has said the pacification program should be moving faster, or at any particular U.S. or Vietnamese official.

He said Prime Minister Nguyen Cao Ky also wants a speedup.

According to Thang, considerably progress has been made already and more is coming.

He said new life hamlets for 400,000 people were achieved in 1966. For 1967, he said the rural development teams would be working in areas with a total population of 1.3 million and he hoped to complete new life hamlets for 600,000.

South Vietnam's total population is about 15 million, but Thang anticipated that the effort to free the countryside of Communist infestation permanently through winning over the people would snowball to victory proportions before the new life program covers the entire country.

On the other hand, he said, without this social-political-economic program 'we will never win the war.'

Other points Thang, who stopped in Washington briefly after attending the inauguration of the new president in Brazil, said:

--Saigon's military regime is wholly dedicated to promoting constitutional, civilian rule and winning the war.

--He has no political ambitions himself and any military men who runs for office in the forthcoming elections will do so as an individual, not as a representative of the forces.

--The new life hamlet program will be kept free of links with any political faction or party.

-- Viet Cong who leave Communist ranks to join in the national life of South Vietnam will be welcomed.

--But no deal should be made with the Communists unless there are adequate safeguards to ensure they will abide by laws.

USSR ORDERS EXPULSION OF TWO CHINESE
DIPLOMATS

MOSCOW, March. 18 (AP)--The Soviet government Saturday ordered the expulsion of two Chinese diplomats in Moscow, charging them with carrying anti-Soviet activity.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs demanded the immediate departure of First Secretary Miao Chiung and Third Secretary Sun Lin.

The expulsion was in retaliation for the recent expulsion of two Soviet diplomats in Peking.

The Foreign Ministry said the two Chinese diplomats had abused their diplomatic status and their actions could only be regarded as hostile to the Soviet state.

The expulsion was accompanied by a sharp attack of the conduct of the Chinese embassy in Moscow.

It was the first time that the Soviet government ever ordered Communist Chinese diplomats out of this country and marked a further deterioration in already strained Soviet-Chinese relations.

The two Soviet diplomats were expelled March 12 on the ground that they had mistreated Chinese workers at the embassy in Peking.

The two, second secretary O. A. Yedanov and second secretary N. G. Natashin, returned to Moscow the following day and denied any wrongdoing.

It was assumed then that in keeping with the usual diplomatic practice that two Chinese diplomats would soon be declared personal non grata.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry statement said the two Chinese diplomats had been instrumental in organizing Soviet-Chinese clashes in Moscow. These started Jan. 25 with a fight in Red Square and were countered in Peking by demonstrations outside the Soviet embassy.

SHARP QUAKE SHAKES TOKYO

TOKYO, March 19 (UPI)-- A sharp earthquake shook Tokyo and environs at 2:50 a.m. (17:50 GMT Saturday) Today.

There was no immediate report of any casualty or damage.

A spokesman of the Central Meteorological Agency said its seismograph registered a magnitude of one of the Japanese scale of seven for Tokyo.

But the quake shook houses throughout the city with such force that their occupants were roused from sleep.

RP TRADE MISSION VISITS SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE, March 18 (AP)-- A Filipino trade mission flew in Saturday to explore possibilities of increasing two-way trade between Singapore and the Philippines.

The leader of the 12-man mission, Clemente C. Abella, told newsmen on arrival from Saigon "our trade with Singapore at present is very insignificant. We are here to improve trade relations with Singapore and also seek trade expansion."

Abella also revealed that his team of private industrialists would, during their three days' stay, study the prospects of participating in joint ventures here and also invite Singapore businessmen to start joint ventures in the Philippines.

The mission has just completed a trade survey of South Vietnam. They will next visit Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok. They were met by officials of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

While here the mission will also study the economic condition prevailing "as we have heard that your country is now undergoing rapid industrialization, as we ourselves are going through a similar phase," Abella said.

"Successful economic cooperation between Singapore and the Philippines may also pave the way for wider economic cooperation in Southeast Asia.

"It may be a step towards the further establishment of a common market in Southeast Asia," Abella added.

JAPAN MAY NOT SIGN NUCLEAR-BAN TREATY

TOKYO, March 18 (AP)-- Prime Minister Eisaku Sato Saturday indicated Japan might not sign the proposed nuclear non-proliferation treaty if it does not give non-nuclear nations fairer treatment.

THANT TO VISIT PAKISTAN

ZAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN, March 18 (Reuter)-- U Thant, the United Nations Secretary-General, will visit Pakistan for three days from April 18 and will meet President Ayub Khan and Foreign Minister Shariffudin Firzada, it was officially announced today.

SUKARNO TOTALLY DISMISSED?

DJAKARTA, March 18 (AP)-- Indonesia's Information Minister B.M. Diah has declared flatly that Sukarno is totally dismissed as President but this statement was censored in local and foreign press dispatches.

Newspapers appeared recently with only Diah's statement in his press conference that Sukarno would "continue to be treated as President."

He declared, however that Sukarno was totally dismissed and his only titles were "Dr. Engineer Sukarno."

Newspapers have been advised to play this softly for fear of pushing too hard against Sukarno's followers in Central and East Java.

But top military men now virtually rule out any violent reaction in those areas.

Indonesia is one of the few countries in the world that still applies direct censorship to foreign press cables. Censors eliminated Diah's comments on total dismissal.

Censorship is erratic and no move is made to block other means by which reports are sent out to avoid the censorship.

GANDHI GOVERNMENT FACES FIRST NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

NEW DELHI, March 19 (UPI)-- Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's newly-elected government faced its first no-confidence motion from a greatly strengthened opposition Saturday.

The combined left-right opposition chose to challenge the ruling Congress Party on the issue of minority government in the state of Rajasthan.

There was little doubt the Congress government would ride out the no-confidence vote when it comes up next week, probably on Monday.

GANDEHI GOVERNMENT....(2)

The opposition mounted its attack on the opening day of the new parliament after national elections in which the Congress Party sustained major losses.

The anti-Congress blocs united in their challenge despite government efforts to soothe them by announcing the state of emergency proclaimed because of the India-Pakistan war in October, 1965 would be lifted July 1.

President Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, in a speech outlining government policy to both houses of parliament, announced a sweeping plan to cut India's exploding birth rate and end the nation's dependence on foreign aid by 1976.

The Congress holds 279 of the 516 seats in the Federal Lower House and was expected to weather Monday's confidence vote without trouble.

The elder statesman of the right wing opposition party Swatantra, C. Rajagopalachari, predicted at a news conference today "the Congress Party government will fall in 15 months."

E U R O P E

DE GAULLE STUDIES FORMATION OF NEW CABINET

PARIS, March 17 (UPI)-- President De Gaulle Saturday cancelled his weekend holiday to study the formation of a new cabinet capable of halting the erosion of Gaullist popularity.

A rash of wholesale dismissals of industrial workers, strikes in a number of key plants and the first violent clashes between farmers and police in years, presented a mounting challenge to De Gaulle.

Saturday, De Gaulle consulted key aides of on how to get around difficulties in the national assembly following the slashing of the Gaullist majority to one seat as a result of the March 5 and 12 elections.

The resurgence of social unrest over the past four days with more expected to follow next week emphasized the long-standing opposition to Gaullist wage policies which led to the leftist gains in the election.

WILSON IN POLITICAL TROUBLE

LONDON, March 19 (UPI)-- Prime Minister Harold Wilson is in political trouble.

Vietnam Press. Number 4083 (Single) Sunday, March 19, 1967

WILSON IN....(2)

Less than a year ago he returned to power in a general election landslide with a majority of 99 seats in Parliament. His position appeared unassailable for the next five years.

Yet in the past two weeks Wilson has received some of the worst political black eyes ever inflicted on a British government leader.

He has been defied by open revolts of his own rank-and-file followers and faced dissension in his cabinet.

He has seen a four per cent swing in a year from Labor to the underdog Conservative opposition in public opinion popularity polls.

He has suffered four smarting jolts in parliament by elections. The latest of these at Honiton, a west of England conservative stronghold, put Labor at the bottom of the poll, even behind the Liberals. The popular vote also showed a 4.5 percent swing away from or and in favor of the conservatives since the March, 1966, general election.

Although growing over Labor's troubles, the Conservatives admit Wilson is no danger yet of being tossed out.

His overall parliamentary majority still is 92. The Prime Minister's most bitter opponents concede the only thing that really could bring down his government and force him to hold new parliament general elections in the near future would be a major split in the ruling Labor party's ranks.

Despite dissensions and public feuding, Wilson's enemies agree this stage has not yet been reached.

But British political commentators are underscoring the change that one year has brought about, reducing Labor from an undisputed victor to a party fighting to hold its own both internally and in the country at large.

The apparently growing national disenchantment with the Wilson government is traced back to many factors, both internal and in the foreign policy field.

Vietnam Press . No 4083 (Single) Sunday, March, 19, 1967

L A T I E S T N E W S

OUTBREAKS OF EPIDEMIC IN CHICOM REPORTED

TAIPEI, March. 19 (UPI)--Outbreaks of meningitis and encephalitis on the China Mainland were reported Saturday by the Nationalist China's official Central News Agency (CNA) which credited intelligence reports.

The agency said Communist Chinese health authorities are rushing medical teams to epidemic-stricken areas, including Shanghai and Canton.

Provinces also affected, CNA said, include Heilungkiang, Kirin, Hupenh, Shansi, Shantung, Honan, Anwhei, Chekiang, Hunan, Kwangtun, Tsinghai and Inner Mongolia.

It said in Canton about 500 persons were afflicted with the disease and the death rate was high.

UK CRITICIZES UN SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COLONIALISM

UNITED NATIONS, March. 19 (AP)--Britain accused the U.N. Special Committee on Colonialism Saturday of 'denial of fair dealing and free speech' that would harm the United Nations.

Lord Caradon, head of the British delegation, made the accusation in a letter to Secretary General U Thant. He asked that the letter be circulated as a general assembly document.

Caradon complained about the committee's decisions March 8 and 15 to withhold from circulation as committee documents 12 messages to the United Nations about the British rule in Aden.

The decisions were based on the argument that no petitions should be circulated that criticized non-colonial countries as distinct from administering authorities. Eleven of the messages charged the United Arab Republic with subversion in Aden. The 12th charged Saudi Arabia with intervention there.

Such discrimination, Caradon said, runs counter to the charter provision proclaiming the sovereign equality of all U.N. members.