

New Phase Expected in Viet War

U.S. Official Says
Reds May Stop
Guerrilla Tactics

By Michael T. Malloy
SAIGON, Jan. 6 (UPI)—A United States military spokesman warned today that the war in South Viet-Nam appears to be entering a new and dangerous phase.

He said recent battles, captured documents and broadcasts by Hanoi Radio in North Viet-Nam indicated the Viet Cong had launched its long-dreaded experiment in fighting bigger and longer battles.

If true it would indicate the Viet Cong felt it had won its guerrilla war and now was strong enough to test the South Vietnamese in pitched battle, and attack and try to hold towns for days in what the Reds call a prelude to victory.

Four Battles Cited

The American spokesman cited four battles—An Lao, Soc Trang, Da Dua and Binh Gia — as examples of Communist willingness to stand and fight. He called the battle at Binh Gia, 40 miles south of Saigon, the biggest, longest, toughest and best-coordinated Communist campaign he could recall.

So far the Viet Cong tactics in South Viet-Nam have followed to the letter the famed primer on guerrilla warfare written by Mao Tse-tung and followed with precision also in Cuba, the Congo and Algeria.

Mao's primer calls first for the establishment of small groups of irregulars to carry out a "war of liberation." The policy is one of hit-and-run until the enemy is weak and the guerrillas are strong and well armed with captured weapons.

Second Phase Due

The second phase opens when the guerrillas are strong enough to fight pitched battles and even attack cities. Recent Hanoi broadcasts have referred to the "regular war" in the South.

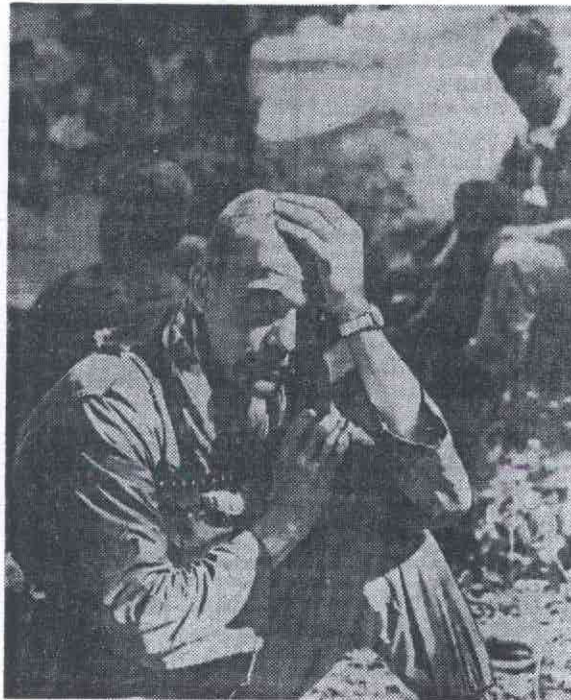
The American spokesman said some of the Viet Cong units fighting in the South have become larger and more

See VIET, A14, Col. 1

Thai Navy told to shoot back if fired on by Cambodian vessels in Thailand waters. Page A14.

Senators indicate uncertainty and caution in survey on Viet-Nam Policy. Page A14.

Hanoi claims U.S. ships shelled North Vietnamese village. Pentagon denies it. Page A14.



Associated Press

Army Sgt. Harold Lewis, 33, of Notus, Idaho, takes a brief rest along a road near Binh Gia, South Viet-Nam. Picture was made Monday after the ranger battalion Lewis was attached to had repulsed a Viet Cong ambush. An American sergeant and 11 Vietnamese soldiers were killed in the ambush attack.