

# U.S. Marines Battle Reds Near Demilitarized Zone

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SAIGON, March 2—American Marines and Communist battalions continued to meet in sporadic clashes today in the area just south of the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Vietnams.

While supporting the Marines, U.S. helicopter reported killing 13 of the enemy, identified as North Vietnamese regulars.

Heavy fighting has been going on in the area since Tuesday and has included two mortar attacks on U.S. 175-mm. cannon that last week began shelling North Vietnamese targets across the DMZ. The zone contains the shortest of North

Vietnam's infiltration routes into the South.

The Communists have inflicted heavy casualties on two Marine companies and moderate casualties on four others in the fighting there so far.

## 180 Mortar Rounds

On Wednesday night the Communists fired 180 mortar rounds into the American 175-mm. gun positions at Giolinh but again failed to damage the artillery pieces. A U.S. spokesman said the mortar fire came from positions about 2½ miles from the guns and within the DMZ.

The U.S. command an-

nounced that the three-nation International Control Commission for Vietnam was forced to leave its compound in the DMZ after it was hit by Communist mortars Tuesday night.

The Commission, whose Canadian, Indian and Polish members are charged with overseeing the 1954 Geneva agreements on Indochina, moved into a temporary headquarters in a hotel Hue, 30 miles to the south.

U.S. sources said at least one mortar round scored a direct hit on a bunker at the commission's compound. There were no casualties reported.

One of the U.S. Marine casualties in the fighting for Hill 124 near the DMZ earlier in the week was Lt. Col. Victor Ohanesian of 6340 Beryl rd., Alexandria, Va., a Chinese-language expert, who died of stomach and leg wounds. One of Col. Ohanesian's tasks had been to monitor the enemy radio for any Chinese that was spoken.

## B-52 Raids

U.S. B-52s from Guam hit four targets in South Vietnam stronghold in War Zone D, 40 miles north of Saigon, to Quangnai Province in the central coastal area.

American pilots flew 92 missions over North Vietnam on Wednesday, about 30 more than the recent daily average. Cargo barges were among the primary targets.

A U.S. Marine spokesman said a South Vietnamese village ten miles west of Quangtri was accidentally hit by "Allied planes." There were 20 civilian casualties. It was not disclosed whether the planes were American or Vietnamese.

From Communist China and North Vietnam came these comments on the war:

- North Vietnam claimed that its shore batteries set three U.S. warships on fire early this week. The U.S. Navy has said only the guided-missile cruiser Canberra was slightly damaged by shelling from a North Vietnamese shore battery Wednesday.

- China denied it had tampered with Soviet military aid to North Vietnam, claiming it had transported "every little bit" of the supplies. Peking accused the Kremlin of attempting to estrange Hanoi from China by fabricating rumors that the Chinese had substituted and hijacked military hardware from Russia.