

## First Time

# Red Aircraft In the South

### Saigon

North Vietnam has moved aircraft into the south for the first time in the war, along with radar facilities capable of controlling them under battlefield conditions, authoritative sources said yesterday.

Soviet-made MI-6 and MI-8 helicopters have been flown across the former demilitarized zone to Hue and Da Nang within the last few days and a radar control facility has also been brought into the south, according to these sources.

In addition, North Vietnam is said to have sent technical groups to the south to activate captured American-made planes and helicopters. Several hundred aircraft were abandoned by South Vietnamese forces in their headlong flight from the central highlands and northern coastal areas.

Many were left by fleeing troops without any attempt to destroy or disable them.

In some cases, aviation fuel supplies and even munitions were left intact.

North Vietnam has had Soviet jets and helicopters for some time, but so far has not sought to use them in the south. It is not known whether the North Vietnamese will use the captured American airfields at Da Nang, Hue and other areas to launch attacks against Saigon or other targets.

But the potential is unquestionably present.

*Washington Post*