

# ALLIES TERM DRIVE BIG BLOW TO REDS

They Report Major Gains in  
Countering Military Action  
and in Seizing Supplies

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, May 12—Allied officials said today that two weeks of operations in Cambodia had fragmented the Vietnamese Communist military command, pushed its major fighting units off balance and captured enough munitions and supplies to sustain heavy enemy attacks in South Vietnam for five months.

These officials—from the Saigon level down to field commanders—also said that their ground troops had searched only a tiny fraction of the densely jungled sanctuaries they had seized since the American operations began on May 1.

At "The City," one of the major enemy caches found in the sweep through the Fishhook sector, American military truck convoys began hauling captured weapons and ammunition over a hastily con-

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structed dirt road through the jungles of northwestern Binhlong Province.

Military spokesmen said their field reports "indicated" that 2,037 North Vietnamese and Vietcong soldiers had been killed in the Cambodian operations. The figures include Pilots' estimates of enemy deaths.

The cumulative totals of captured weapons and supplies were reported as follows: 8,025 rifles; 1,051 crew-served weapons such as mortars, heavy machine guns and recoilless rifles; 1,449 tons of ammunition; 163 trucks and other vehicles; 1,859 tons of rice, and 16 tons of medical supplies.

### No Sign of Headquarters

Allied troops have also reported finding 1,585 gallons of gasoline and 1,555 gallons of oil.

These finds have surpassed in all commodities except rice the amounts of supplies captured before in South Vietnam.

Allied troops have reported finding no structures or equip-

ment linked directly to what is called the Central Office for South Vietnam, the enemy military command headquarters. Informed sources reported "good indications" that members of the enemy headquarters staff had moved deep into Cambodia, perhaps to the west of the Mekong River.

Analysts believe that there are at least four alternative operations centers for the Central Office. Some sources believe that "The City"—about 70 miles northwest of Saigon—could have contained one of them, although no elaborate radio equipment, documents and other command equipment have been recovered there. One low-frequency transmitter-receiver, capable of reaching Hanoi, was found in "The City." One analyst said, it would be "very naive" to think that allied troops could capture enemy leaders.

They also noted that they have no idea how much remains to be discovered in the time President Nixon has given American ground troops to search. Mr. Nixon said last week that the first soldiers would

leave Cambodia this week and that all would be out by the end of June.

The sources say that the mortars, rockets and heavy ammunition captured thus far would have lasted about three months, perhaps as long as five months, given the current level of usage. The captured rice would feed at full ration 6,200 soldiers for a year.

### Three Major Depots

In noting the large areas in the sanctuaries still unsearched, officials say that about 70 per cent of the captured materials was found in three large supply depots—one in the tip of the Parrot's Beak 35 miles west of Saigon near the village of Bathu; another in "The City," six miles south of Snoul between the border and Cambodian Highway 7, and the third north of the village of Budop in Phuoclong Province.

Beneath a makeshift sign reading "Your tax dollars at work," soldiers loaded trucks with captured supplies in "The City" for movement east over a dirt trail hacked out of the jungle by bulldozers during the

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last two days. The trail leads to a tiny outpost on Highway 13 called "Doomsday."

From there, convoys will presumably move down Highway 13 to large allied bases.

The Bathu cache site in the Parrot's Beak is in flat, fairly open territory and no problems have been reported in removing captured supplies.

Besides the seizure of supplies, allied officials say that the sweeps across the border have had other important effects, hinting at repeated forays by allied troops into Cambodia.

One official said: "The enemy can no longer depend on being able to stash supplies on the other side of the border with impunity."