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### 9 Branches Reported Cut

SAIGON, March 9 (AP)— South Vietnamese troops in Laos now have cut nine major branches of the Ho Chi Minh Trail network, Saigon headquarters reported today.

Intensive air activity continued Tuesday around Tchepone.

A South Vietnamese officer said that region was regarded as "the throat" of North Vietnam's infiltration corridor to

South Vietnam and Cambodia. Lieut. Col. Tran Van An said at least five of the nine severed main supply lines pass through the Tchepone area. Branches of the trail west of Tchepone have also been under United States aerial attack.

### U.S. Bombing Errors

SAIGON, March 9 (Reuters) — Bombs, napalm, rockets and gunfire from United States planes and helicopters killed eight South Vietnamese soldiers and injured 54 in two accidents east of Tchepone Friday, the United States military command reported today.

### Laotians Under Heavy Attack

VIENTIANE, Laos, March 9 (AP) — North Vietnamese and Pathet Lao forces are attacking in both northern and southern Laos and the military situation is grave, the Defense Ministry said today.

Gen. Thongphanh Knoksy, the ministry spokesman, said the enemy fired rockets Monday and today into Long Tieng, the army base 78 miles northeast

of Vientiane. The king's residence there was reported damaged, but King Savang Vathana was away at the time.

The spokesman reported the 165th North Vietnamese Regiment was advancing on Ban Na Hill, a position that serves as a buffer between Long Tieng and the enemy-controlled Plaine des Jarres to the north east. Ban Na is 19 miles north of Long Tieng.

General Knoksy reported two days of intense fighting on the eastern edge of the Boloven Plateau, in southern Laos on the western flank of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. This area is 80 miles south of Saigon.

He said 200 enemy soldiers had been killed in the attack but the North Vietnamese were shelling the position heavily. He gave Laotian losses as one killed and 10 wounded.