

## Tight Lid on Viet Campaign

### Saigon.

In the last few days South Vietnamese military spokesmen have been declining to discuss a new military operation under way in the battle-scarred A Shau valley near the Laotian border in South Vietnam's highlands 375 miles northeast of Saigon.

The silence is reminiscent of the one that preceded the South Vietnamese push into Laos in February and March. Only this time there are no background sessions as there were before the

Laos incursion when correspondents knew what was going on but could not write about it.

The new approach toward the press is explained by some sources, mostly American, as reflecting the increased sensitivity of President Nguyen Van Thieu and his generals over what they consider was the "hostile" reporting by foreign correspondents of Vietnamese operations in Laos. There is new emphasis on limiting on-scene reporting of South Vietnamese operations anywhere in Indochina.

The headquarters of General Creighton Abrams seems to be going along with the new Vietnamese limitations on news from the battlefronts. American briefers at the daily "military situation" press conference here are only slightly less tight-lipped than their Vietnamese Army counterparts.

Reporters have been puzzled by the absolute lack of any further news in the past 48 hours. The A Shau valley has always been an area of big enemy supply caches and is usually heavily defended.

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