

SURGE OF ATTACKS HITS ALLIED POSTS; MORE PREDICTED

Explosions Rip U.S. Base at Camranh Bay—Attempt to Disrupt Election Seen

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Thursday, Aug. 26—In a surge of attacks on allied installations yesterday, enemy forces shelled several American bases and sent explosions ripping through a vast American ammunition dump at Camranh Bay.

The United States command, which ordered a special alert for all United States troops in Vietnam on Tuesday, warned that intelligence reports showed the "enemy may be planning a high point of activity during the next few days." Officers said the enemy attacks would be designed to disrupt the South Vietnamese legislative elections on Sunday.

Similar warnings came from South Vietnamese spokesmen. [The Saigon command reported 26 enemy actions around the country in 24 hours, among them eight rocket and mortar bombardments, The Associated Press said.]

Thieu and Bunker Confer

Meanwhile, President Nguyen Van Thieu conferred twice with Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker, who presumably was continuing efforts to salvage at least the appearance of a contest in the presidential election Oct. 3. Between these meetings, the President told his campaign managers to go ahead with their plans, reportedly pointing out that officially he would have an opponent on the ballot—Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, though Mr. Ky has refused to campaign. [Details on Page 12.]

In a rare public assessment of enemy intentions, the United States command said the "high point could begin at different places at different times, and could also involve increased terrorist activities." It added that American troops had increased their readiness by the special alert designed to limit nonessential travel, keep American troops out of populated areas and "prepare militarily for the situation."

Military spokesmen said it was too early to say whether the surge of shelling attacks was the start of the increased enemy activity expected in the next few days.

The spokesmen refused to relate the warning to Sunday's elections for the lower house, although other officials did so and also expressed concern over the possibility of demonstrations to protest the untested presidential election in October. They said the objective was to keep Americans inconspicuous during a period of potential violence.

The United States command said that the explosions at Camranh Bay began at 2:45 A.M. and continued for nearly 13 hours. Five American servicemen were reported wounded, and Air Force operations at the adjoining air base were disrupted for hours.

More Americans were wounded in shelling attacks on Camp

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Faulkner, just south of Danang; at the Laikhe base camp about 30 miles north of Saigon and at an installations 40 miles east of the capital. Rockets also struck the Danang air base, but the command reported no casualties there.

9 Civilians Reported Killed

SAIGON, Thursday, Aug. 26 (AP)—Reporting on South Vietnamese casualties in the latest enemy attacks, a Saigon command statement said yesterday that nine civilians had been killed and 21 wounded in two shellings, an ambush and a bombing.

Five South Vietnamese civilians were reported killed when two rockets struck a village outside Danang. The rockets touched off fires that threatened the village.

The chief of the village