

New Allied Drive Is Reported Along the Cambodian Border

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Highway Is Objective

By The Associated Press

TAYNINH, South Vietnam, Thursday, Sept. 30—A large allied counteroffensive was reportedly begun yesterday against North Vietnamese forces along the Cambodian border near here in the hope of preventing them from interfering with South Vietnam's Presidential election on Sunday.

Nine South Vietnamese and United States generals held daylong strategy sessions here in preparation for the counterdrive.

Its objective was to reopen the 30-mile stretch of road leading north along Route 22 from Tayninh to Krek, which is eight miles inside Cambodia. It had been cut by North Vietnamese troops who appeared to be threatening to overrun half a dozen allied positions.

Lieut. Gen. Nguyen Van Minh, commander of South Vietnamese forces in the Third Military Region, which includes Saigon, about 60 miles east of here, said in

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Thieu Bids Police Shoot

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, Sept. 29—President Nguyen Van Thieu told the National Police that they might "shoot down any one who attempts to burn vehicles in the streets."

With the one-man election only four days away, Mr. Thieu has made three speeches on national television and one campaign trip, to the sparsely populated Central Highlands. Today he addressed a convention there of 400 National Policemen from all over Vietnam.

As a small demonstration by rock-throwing students in Danang was being broken up by police, Mr. Thieu told his audience, "we cannot tolerate a minority that sows confusion and creates disturbances among the people."

In Saigon in recent days, as small bands of students have been tossing gasoline bombs at police jeeps and at American vehicles.

Mr. Thieu told his policemen,

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"I would suggest that you pick up some tough and strong people among you and let them drive Government vehicles into the demonstrations as a provocation for the demonstrators to stop and burn the car. Then get out and arrest them. There are always only one or two leaders in these things and you should pick up only the real troublemakers, and punish them severely."

Repeated for the Press

To make sure the opposition got the point, the official Government spokesman, Vu Khanh, read this part of the President's remarks to the Vietnamese and foreign press at the afternoon briefing. Vietnamese reporters scurried out to get the news into their papers after he finished speaking in Vietnamese.

Mr. Khanh later elaborated, in English, "if demonstrators are caught red-handed, burning automobiles, they can be shot on the spot, or be put in jail."

Some police officers indicated a few days ago that they were aware that they had such authority, but so far they have declined to use it, on the ground that shooting demonstrators might provoke more violent reaction.

Saigon is filled with riot policemen in combat uniforms, and the police occupy one of the bastions of the student activism, the Minh Mang Univer-

sity compound near Cholon. The students, however, have let it be known that they would not give up their opposition simply because President Thieu got tougher today.

The opposition showed signs late last week of turning from demonstrations to more traditionally political forms of working against President Thieu's uncontested candidacy.

At a Saturday night dinner given by the President's most outspoken opponent, Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, representatives of the students, the anti-Government Buddhists, war veterans and associates of Gen. Duong Van Minh united in a new People's Force against dictatorship, which has scheduled a "people's congress" at Mr. Ky's guest house Friday night.

The organizers of the People's Force say that their group will call upon the voters to boycott the elections this Sunday. They have been unsuccessful, however, in getting General Minh who withdrew as a candidate to support the boycott proposal. The general issued a statement saying that if the election is held "in the existing conditions, the regime of South Vietnam will cease to have a democratic and legal basis, will lose all credit in the eyes of the world, and will be completely alienated from the people." But he did not call for a boycott of the election.

His statement also said "I will firmly maintain my posi-

tion: I shall be on the side of the people in the fight for the peace of the nation." So far the people have given no clear indication where most numbers do not go to the polls in spite of the strong legal and official pressures on them to vote. Perhaps it may become clearer sooner than that, if the demonstrations grow.

Thieu Bids His Police Shoot in Riots



United Press International

Spectators and policeman at spot where plastic bomb was set off in Saigon suburb