

# Militant Saigon Students Vow to Pursue Struggle

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Oct. 5—The militant students here, bitter opponents of President Nguyen Van Thieu and of the Americans, who support him, say they will continue their campaign against the President and his allies.

The hit-and-run firebomb attacks on American vehicles will go on and on, they say. The militants, a small minority, insist that they are neither frightened nor discouraged by Mr. Thieu, who told the national police last month that they might shoot down anyone who attempts to burn vehicles.

The student assault groups say they have damaged or destroyed nearly a hundred vehicles in Saigon and in the suburbs. A United States Navy man who was in a car died of burns.

No extensive demonstrations are planned at the moment to avoid arrests that would weaken their forces, the students say. Another reason, they say, is that demonstrators cannot hold out long under the amounts of tear gas used by the Vietnamese police.

## Ignoring Army Orders

Nguyen Xuan Lap, who is 28 years old and ranks as one of the most effective and stubborn organizers, said: "It was always clear to everybody that the students alone cannot topple Mr. Thieu. The students' role is to be the detonator for an angry army and an angry people who will be the real explosive."

Mr. Lap, a pharmacist who graduated last year



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Nguyen Xuan Lap, 28-year-old pharmacist who is a leader of "little war" against regime, with tear-gas grenade.

from the Saigon University Medical School, is ignoring army orders assigning him to Pleiku with the rank of lieutenant.

"Mr. Thieu has the army and all the guns," he continued. "We don't. Our goal is to stir up the people by constant lectures and conversations so that they will realize they must really do something to pull down Mr.

Thieu or the war will go on forever and their lives will be ruined."

He said a movement called Talk to the People was started by students in May, 1970, to spread anti-Thieu and anti-American propaganda. He claims contact with students throughout the country, especially in Hue and Da-nang, where they are among the most aggressive.

The head of the largest and most powerful Buddhist student organization, Mr. Lap is also an officer of the Student Affairs Committee at the An Quang Pagoda, which was the headquarters for factions opposing the one-man presidential election. Last week students in the pagoda fought with policemen, who do not enter it. He was a candidate in the National Assembly election last August but spent 26 days in a military prison during his campaign.

## Father with Vietminh

Mr. Lap's father, a farmer in Phuyen Province, spent nine years with the Vietminh, the Communist-led movement that fought the French for Vietnamese independence. His mother runs a small market stall. His two older brothers were killed in the war with the French.

"The most cherished image of my childhood is the Vietminh fighters who stayed in the area a few days, then went away for operations" Mr. Lap related. They were so idealistic. They were so close to the peasants and especially to us kids."

"Many young people of my age from Phuyen are very active in political activities," he added. "This is one good result of the influence of nine years of the Vietminh in Phuyen. We grew up in a different atmosphere, where men did not think of themselves but of the nation and the people. In this atmosphere no men were mean and selfish."

Many of his childhood friends have joined the National Liberation Front, he said.