

U.S. Navy Jet Reported to Strike Missile Site in North Vietnam

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Wednesday, Nov. 3 (AP)—An American Navy jet that was bombing the enemy's supply trail in Laos was reported to have darted over neighboring North Vietnam yesterday to attack an antiaircraft battery that had fired two missiles at it.

The United States command reported that the American plane had not been hit in the missile attack and that the results of its strike at the North Vietnamese site, 105 miles north of the demilitarized zone along the line between the two Vietnams, were not immediately known.

It was the 70th so-called "protective reaction" strike by United States planes inside North Vietnam this year, the command said.

Battle Lull Continues

The command also announced that enemy gunners had shot down two American helicopters in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. In the downing of one—an observation helicopter 17 miles west of Pleiku—an American crewman was reported wounded. There were no casualties in the other, that of a transport helicopter shot down 34 miles northwest of Kontum.

In other action, American helicopter gunships reportedly killed 24 North Vietnamese and Vietcong soldiers in the Mekong delta, 140 miles southwest of Saigon, but a battlefield lull was reported to continue elsewhere in South Vietnam.

Cambodian Siege Broken

PRAKHAM, Cambodia, Nov. 2 (Reuters)—A Cambodian armored column today broke through to this town 56 miles north of Pnompenh, lifting a weeklong siege by eight North Vietnamese and Vietcong battalions.

Officers said that the enemy troops, which encircled the town a week ago, pulled back this morning when the column advanced through their posi-

tions, already pounded by artillery and mortar fire for more than 24 hours.

The relief of Prakham was the first Government success in breaking up big enemy concentrations since a recent operation that cleared Route 6 up to Kompong Thom.

The enemy forces were regrouping east of the highway and were receiving reinforcements, estimated by Cambodian staff officers at more than 7,000.

The road remained in enemy hands from Prakham to Rumlong, seven miles further north. Officers at Skoun, the headquarters town a few miles south of Prakham, said the situation at Rumlong was critical.

291 Reported Killed

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Nov. 2 (AP)—The Government today reported 291 North Vietnamese and Vietcong killed in the campaign at Prakham.

Prakham is one of the rear strong points for the 20,000 Cambodian soldiers who have been battling an enemy counter-offensive.

"We lived like mice—underground," Maj. Thach Xoai said. "One reason for the low casualties were that we had plenty of deep bunkers."

Major Thach said the enemy's radio security had been poor. "We knew every move they were planning because we listened in to their radio network," he said. "They even transmitted map coordinates of their mortar positions."