

Communist Drive Rolls

Saigon

Communist forces overran more than a dozen government positions in South Vietnam and Cambodia yesterday.

The attacks presaged possibly even more intense fighting in a campaign that analysts say is aimed at eroding South Vietnam and Cambodia militarily and economically in efforts to gain political concessions for

the Communists.

In South Vietnam, a regionalized offensive was nearing the end of its fourth week. In Cambodia, the insurgent forces were believed starting the first phase of their dry season offensive against the capital of Phnom Penh.

The Saigon command said tank-led North Vietnamese infantrymen overran another district town, the 11th to

fall since the signing of the cease-fire agreement, and two other South Vietnamese positions around it.

Most of the action in Vietnam was centered in isolated Phuoc Long province bordering Cambodia 75 miles north of Saigon. The Saigon command said four of its positions around Phuoc Binh city, the provincial capital of Phuoc Long, were heavily shelled. Military officials

On in Vietnam, Cambodia

said three of them were lost to the North Vietnamese.

Field reports said Cambodian Communist forces overran ten weakly defended government outposts two miles across the Mekong river from the Cambodian capital in the closest thrust to Phnom Penh since a similar drive against the capital was launched about the same time a year ago. Hundreds of villagers were

streaming across the Mekong river in small boats to escape the fighting.

Khmer Rouge insurgents seized four villages on the eastern bank of the river, field reports said. Refugees said about 1000 villagers were abducted by the insurgents and those who resisted were killed.

Reports reaching Phnom Penh said more than 200 government soldiers were

killed or missing. Hundreds of other soldiers fled to safety by swimming across the river to an island where the Mekong and Tonle rivers meet, the reports said.

A four-mile stretch of the eastern bank of the Mekong was occupied by the Cambodian Communists, the reports said. Homes were reportedly burned and the rising smoke was visible

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