

# Hanoi Reported Moving 7 More Divisions South

## Saigon

North Vietnam is now believed to be moving all but one of the eight divisions remaining in North Vietnam into South Vietnam, Western intelligence officers reported yesterday.

The commitment of almost all of Hanoi's troops to the south is regarded as particularly ominous because it comes when the balance of power has already been tipped in the Communists' favor, these analysts say. Saigon has lost about half of its army of 1.1 million men, or six of its 13 infantry divisions, in the last three weeks.

By contrast the Communists now have an estimated 20 divisions inside the south, with reserve divisions yet to come.

No major battles were reported yesterday in the southern one-third of the country still in government hands.

A Saigon military spokesman said the government has reestablished contact with three cities on the central coast that had previously been reported abandoned and lost to the Communists without a fight. The cities are Nha Trang, Phan Rang and Phan Thiet.

The spokesman, Colonel Le Trung Hien, reported that some government units had been rediscovered operating in the cities after they had been officially written off earlier this week.

At Nha Trang, the most important of the three coastal cities, and the scene of looting and chaos by government troops on Tuesday and Wednesday, the officer of a small artillery unit retreating through the city reportedly called Saigon by radio and asked for permission to assume command. This surprising request was granted.

It was uncertain, however, how long the three isolated cities could hold out against a vastly bigger Communist force around them.

Communist troops continued probing actions along the government's defense lines around Saigon yesterday, but they launched no major attacks.

Meanwhile, a chartered Pan American World Airways 707 left last night after curfew, loaded with American men, women and children. Among them were officials and their families of the three American banks doing business in Saigon — First National City Bank, the Chase Manhattan Bank, and the Bank of America. Other American companies were also evacuating their American employees and families.

*New York Times*