

U-5 - 75
NYT

U.S. Believes No New Weaponry Has Fallen to the Communists

By DAVID BINDER

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 4—The Defense Department has concluded that none of the United States military equipment lost to Communist forces in the latest offensive in South Vietnam is of a sensitive nature, a spokesman said today.

Pentagon specialists made a preliminary survey this week of the types of weapons and equipment handed over to the South Vietnamese by the United States forces when they withdrew from Indochina.

"It's a question of volume not of technology," the spokesman said of the vast quantities of artillery pieces, tanks and aircraft abandoned over the last three weeks by retreating South Vietnamese.

"They did get one Fadac," he said, using the acronym for field artillery digital automated computer—a fire-control system that coordinates information for targeting.

"But they already got one of those from us in a previous offensive."

Advanced Arms Withdrawn

"For the rest, there is nothing really sensitive," said the spokesman, who holds the rank of general. "None of it is classified."

The Saigon forces have an older model of the F-5 fighter-bomber, for example, which lacks the more sophisticated electronic gear employed on newer models, he said.

Similarly, the armored units have quantities of M-48 tanks, many of which have fallen to the advancing North Vietnamese. But these, too, are older models.

The spokesman said that

when the American forces withdrew, they took with them all such advanced weapons as television-camera-targeted "smart bombs," Hawk surface-to-air missiles and other equipment.

The one sensitive piece of equipment endangered by the North Vietnamese advance was a nuclear reactor at Da Lat, he said.

A special team was flown from the United States on Monday to remove the nuclear fuel cells and to destroy the reactor, he said. The reactor had been attached to a hydroelectric system to increase power production for the Da Lat region, he said.

Asked about advanced electronic computers in Vietnam, the spokesman acknowledged that United States forces had left in Saigon a large computer for intelligence analysis. It is operated by South Vietnamese with the assistance of American military attachés.

"It is not the computer that is so sensitive as the programming," the spokesman said.

He reported that the operators had orders to remove or destroy the computer in the event of danger that Saigon might fall to the Communists.

There are at least two other computers in Saigon, according to a spokesman for the International Business Machines Corporation.

They are of the type known as Model 50 of the 360 system, valued at about \$1-million each. They are not "sensitive," the spokesman remarked, adding that a model 50 computer was sold several years ago to the Soviet Ministry of Chemical Industry.