

## COMMUNISTS PUSH NEARER TO SAIGON

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of Saigon.

Reports from Tay Ninh said that two barrages of 122-mm. rockets had crashed into the city, resulting in a number of killed and wounded.

One of the rockets was said to have hit an ammunition dump, setting off explosions that continued for nearly an hour.

While the main Communist assault northeast of Saigon was centered on the small city of Vuan Loc, the North Vietnamese troops were also apparently attempting to isolate the defenders with nearby attacks. Tanks and infantry yesterday afternoon attacked a Government rear headquarters base a mile east of the city and a second command post two miles farther east was heavily shelled apparently in preparation for an attack, the Government spokesman said.

### Command Posts Attacked

Xuan Loc is at the edge of a dense jungle region known as D Zone, a traditional Communist sanctuary. It lies on the approach to Bien Hoa, a key city 12 miles northeast of Saigon, whose big air base is the most important remaining operations center for government fighters and bombers.

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The air base came under shellfire yesterday morning, and the 26 rounds that landed reportedly killed two military men and wounded 15 other persons.

Delayed reports reaching Saigon of Communist action south of the capital said a number of district capitals in Kien Giang Province and other provinces bordering Cambodia were shelled Tuesday night.

In a clash near Sa Dec Tuesday, Government forces reported having killed 47 enemy soldiers, suffering only one wounded. The claimed enemy casualties therefore must have been caused by air strikes or shelling.

### General's Death Investigated

The Saigon spokesman said last night that an investigation was continuing into the death Tuesday night of Maj. Gen. Nguyen Van Hieu, deputy commander of Military Region III, which surrounds Saigon.

According to the official account of the incident, the general shot himself by accident after repairing a German-made P-38 pistol, the operation of which had been unfamiliar to him.

But when asked how many shots had hit General Hieu, the spokesman last night said he did not know.