

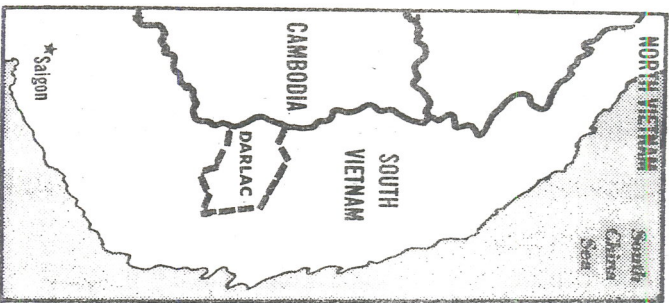
S. Vietnam Meeting Armed Resistance

From News Dispatches

BANGKOK, Jan. 2.—Armed forces in the South Vietnamese province of Darlac are on a search and destroy mission to wipe out the remnants of troops still loyal to the former Saigon regime, according to a Hanoi radio broadcast monitored here today.

The broadcast said armed security forces and local militia in the Central Highlands province captured ringleaders and seized a large quantity of weapons and equipment late last month. The security forces, it said, were operating under the slogan: "Search for and destroy the enemy and insure security of the fatherland."

There have been many unconfirmed reports and rumors of resistance against the new Communist authorities in Saigon but specific information has been difficult to obtain since Westerners have not been allowed outside the South



The Washington Post

Vietnamese capital. Official broadcasts out of Hanoi and Saigon over the past few

months have mentioned resistance activities.

Two major concentrations of opposition forces have been reported in the past in the Central Highlands. One appears to be made up of former South Vietnamese forces which look to the jungles after the fall of Saigon last April. It is believed to be headed by a man identified as Col. Phong, who has been referred to by the North Vietnamese in broadcasts as a man with a price on his head.

The second is a group of Montagnard tribesmen still fighting under the nominal banner of FULRO, the acronym in French of the United Fighting Front of Oppressed Races, which has been fighting Saigon since the days of President Ngo Dinh Diem and which was once supported by the American Special Forces.

Resistance has also been reported sporadically in the Mekong Delta area. Recent refugees have identified its

leader as former Lt. Col. Huynh Trung Hieu, a member of the Hoa Hao religious sect. He has also been named in some North Vietnamese counterpropaganda efforts and a reward has been put on his head.

Hanoi radio gave some confirmation to reports of continued fighting on Oct. 15 when it announced that "more than 500 puppet soldiers" had been arrested in the Delta area.

Security forces, meanwhile, have arrested more than 1,000 people who committed robberies, drug smuggling and prostitution before the Provisional Revolutionary Government took over South Vietnam last April, Saigon's official Liberation Daily reported today.

In other developments: Vietnam's Liberation Radio said Cambodia had decided to provide Laos with 3,000 tons of rice free of charge "to help solve the rice shortage" in that

country. The aid was promised last month when Laotian Foreign Minister Phoume Siprasouth visited Phnom Penh and was told that Cambodia would have a good rice crop this year, the broadcast said.

—North Vietnam has decided to lend "free aid" to Laos in 1976 to help the Laotians overcome immediate difficulties, Hanoi's Vietnam News Agency said. It gave no amount.

—Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian head of state, hosted a New Year's Day banquet in Phnom Penh after returning from a 41-day tour of Asian, African and European nations, according to a radio Phnom Penh broadcast.

—Three Cambodians who had sought refuge in Thailand were severely wounded and more than 10 Khmer Rouge soldiers were shot and killed today during three separate clashes in a forest outside the border town of Poinpet in Cambodia, Thai police said.