

## A Campaign to Force U.S. Out

# The Saigon Student

By Gloria Emerson  
N.Y. Times Service

### Saigon

A scrawny 16-year-old Vietnamese high school student, who loathes American soldiers, tried his best Wednesday to burn an American Army van and the GI driving it.

It was another incident in a three-week-old campaign, now causing concern to U.S. officials, by high school and university students in Saigon to burn American military and civilian vehicles and to beat up GIs.

In an interview, the leaders of the group, who call it the Movement Struggling for the People's Right to Life, said their aim is to force all American troops to leave Vietnam immediately. The presence of American troops here in massive numbers since 1965 was cited by these students as the cause of "much suffering" in the country.

### CAMPAIGN

The students say they are limiting their campaign to vehicles and assaults on soldiers. They deny responsibility for such terrorist acts as an explosion Wednesday night in a Saigon night club in which at least 15 persons were killed and 57 seriously wounded.

In the attempt to burn the Army van, Nguyen Van Chanh, working with three other students dashed in front of the vehicle in a crowded residential area and tried to throw a plastic bag of high-octane gasoline into it. They then had planned to throw in lighted matches.

But Nguyen Van Chanh's aim was bad. The plastic sack hit the windshield and

the American soldier drove off as quickly as he could.

"Bad shot," said Doan Hoa Trung, a 23-year-old law student.

### BURNED

Last Tuesday an American Navy man suffered second-degree burns when students set his car afire. He "burned like a human torch," according to one of the students.

The leaders say there are more than 1500 in their group and that they have burned 32 American vehicles since August 23.

These figures have not been confirmed by the U.S. Embassy. It was learned, however, that American officials are considering restricting the movements of U.S. military personnel in South Vietnamese cities because of a growing display of anti-Americanism, and that the attacks on vehicles are viewed with apprehension.

Vo Thi Bach Tuyet, the movement's 23-year-old vice president for external affairs, said in Vietnamese, "I do not think the Americans understand the war in Vietnam and many of them perhaps feel that their soldiers are here under a good banner, here to fight Communists."

"So if the American people see that it is the Vietnamese people, the people in the south, who are hurting the American soldiers, they will better understand the situation," she added.

The head of the movement, Nguyen Xuan Thong, is a 25-year-old senior at Saigon University. He appears to be gentle, soft-spoken and almost cautious.

"The root of our hatred for the Americans perhaps goes back to the way we felt about the French," he said. "We think by hurting a GI we can

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cause more of a shock in America than by hurting any important official, and if we burn the car of the ambassador, or some big shot, then they can easily get another one."

## SYMBOL

Lam Thanh Qui, a 20-year-old high school student, said any GI would be attacked who did not wear a peace symbol or show it on his windshield. But there was some confusion in this group on the peace symbol.

It was finally decided that American vehicles and soldiers had to show the one passed out by the movement. It is a slip of paper showing two hands breaking an American M-16 rifle. The words on the paper, in Vietnamese, say: "Down with the war of the M-16 rifle. Aggression by the American imperialists."

The leaders said their movement was responsible for the burning of 50 automobiles in the Saigon area last December after an American soldier shot and killed a 12-year-old student at Qui Nhon in Binh Dinh province.

## RIOTS

American officials said at the time that the boy was killed after the soldier had fired warning shots to prevent other boys from stealing from an Army truck. Two days of student demonstrations and riots drew national attention to the incident.

A similar incident followed the shooting of a 16-year-old student by a GI in Hue on Sunday. It is believed that the boy was trying to steal the American's wristwatch.

Since the rioting was ended by the police using water hoses and tear gas. Hue has been off limits to Americans.

Headquarters for the Sai-

## Aussies Leaving

Canberra

The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian regiment, will be brought back from Vietnam to Australia in October, Defense Minister David Fairbairn said yesterday.

The minister said the Australian planning for the withdrawal of its 6000 forces is proceeding satisfactorily.

Reuters

gon assault groups is in the dormitories for male university students in Cholon, the Chinese section of the city. Tear gas grenades were thrown into this student compound Tuesday morning after the burning of two election posters of President Nguyen Van Thieu. The students intend to burn many more posters to show their contempt for the elections, for the president and for his American support, the students said.