

## SAIGON SAYS FOE STEPS UP ACTION

Cites 41 Attacks in 24 Hours  
—Enemy Camp Destroyed

SAIGON, South Vietnam, March 16 (AP)—A large increase in enemy attacks in South Vietnam was reported today by the Saigon command.

It said that North Vietnamese and Vietcong forces initiated 41 attacks during the 24 hours ended at dawn, as compared with 23 in the previous 24-hour period. The total, the command said, was the highest since Feb. 7.

Most of the assaults were in the coastal lowlands province of Quangnai, about 75 miles south of Danang, and for the most part the targets appeared



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South Vietnamese militia units were attacked near Quangnai (1). A fourth enemy base was destroyed in eastern Cambodia (2).

to be local militia units, which are assigned the task of local security while the South Vietnamese Army tries to keep North Vietnamese regulars away from cities and towns.

The Saigon command said that four enemy attacks in the province left 31 South Vietnamese dead, 18 of them civilians. Forty-four others were wounded, 28 of them civilians, and the attackers were said to have lost six killed.

Fifty-seven homes, a Buddhist pagoda and a school were reported heavily damaged.

### Three Rockets Hit City

In the city of Quangnai, four persons were reported killed and 27 wounded when three 100-pound rockets struck the area.

Less than five miles north of the city, Vietcong troops reportedly shelled and then assaulted a militia outpost, killing seven of the defenders and wounding six.

Meanwhile, South Vietnamese forces engaged in a drive into eastern Cambodia reported that they had destroyed the fourth major enemy base camp found during their week-old sweep.

Reports from the field said that the camp was a training center for about 500 enemy troops 15 miles inside Cambodia and 85 miles northwest of Saigon.

Members of the 7,000-man task force committed to the drive burned the deserted camp, which they found in a heavily wooded region.

The task force's mission is to destroy enemy bases and upset any plans for attacks in the Saigon area. So far, the enemy troops have been killed, most of them by air and artillery strikes. South Vietnamese losses were put at 5 killed and 51 wounded.

### Cambodian Cache Explodes

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, March 16 (AP) — The main ammunition dump at the Phnompenh airport blew up today, and explosions continued for three hours four miles from the center of the city.

The blast was attributed by some to enemy saboteurs and by others to a fire a soldier had built to cook lunch. There were no reports of casualties among security guards. The dump is in a remote part of the airport.

The dump had exploded once before—in January, 1971, when enemy saboteurs set off satchel charges there.