

Viet Reds Step Up Indochina Assaults

Saigon

Communist troops sharply increased their attacks in Indochina yesterday. They included an assault on a South Vietnamese armored cavalry command post in southern Cambodia.

The enemy struck before dawn at the command post near Kompong Trach, seven miles inside Cambodia and 160 miles southwest of Saigon.

Field reports said 13 government troops were killed and 20 wounded. Government troops claimed they killed eight North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldiers.

The enemy forces fired about 30 heavy rockets into the position before launching a ground attack.

SABOTAGE

Deeper in Cambodia, enemy saboteurs blew up two fuel barges and a cargo ship in the Mekong River near the capital of Phnom Penh, only two days after a devastating shelling of the city.

Military sources said the ships were blown up while moored about a mile southeast of the capital. No cas-

ualties were reported in the explosions. The cargo ship, laden with supplies for the capital, was heavily damaged but was still afloat. The barges were carrying badly needed fuel for Phnom Penh.

Meanwhile, enemy troops moved to within 15 miles of Phnom Penh along Highway 1, the main road link between the capital and Saigon.

Heavy fighting continued around Prey Veng, 30 miles east of Phnom Penh, for the fourth consecutive day. Government troops, defending the city were being resupplied by air drops.

VIETNAM

Enemy gunners fired nearly 300 rockets and mortar shells into South Vietnamese positions below the demilitarized zone and farther south near Hue. No casualties were reported.

Nineteen militiamen and nine of their wives and children were killed and 29 defenders wounded in a pre-dawn attack Wednesday on a district town in the Mekong Delta.

The Saigon command said the town of Truc Giang, 50

miles southwest of Saigon, was defended by a poorly trained and equipped militia force of about 150 men, along with combat police.

Enemy troops, who overran the town behind a storm of automatic weapons fire and rocket-propelled grenades, destroyed the police headquarters and a housing complex for the militiamen. They also damaged the district headquarters before they withdrew.

Nine enemy troops were killed in the attack and one was taken prisoner, the Saigon command said.

OFFENSIVE

A large-scale South Vietnamese drive continued against North Vietnamese and Viet Cong supply camps in eastern Cambodia about 85-100 miles northwest of Saigon and ten-15 miles inside Cambodia.

The campaign, which began two weeks ago and now involves about 10,000 troops, has uncovered tons of munitions and food stores.

LAOS

In Laos, North Vietnamese forces were reported bringing up tanks for an at-

tack on Long Cheng, the hard-pressed army base 78 miles northeast of Vientiane, the capital.

Spotter planes saw three Russian-built tanks about five miles northwest of Long Cheng, sources in Vientiane reported.

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