

Timing of Invasion By North Vietnam

A signal from the Front:

A friend of Gen. Creighton Abrams' staff writes, as of April 29, "The situation in Quang Tri province, the northernmost, looks grave. It was merely serious until yesterday when the Communists renewed their assault on the city. It's a toss-up now as to what may happen.

"I think the North Vietnamese leadership decided to invade the south earlier than expected because they feared South Vietnam's rapidly growing strength.

"The Communists probably felt that if they waited until July-August-September (as President Thieu thought they would) South Vietnam might be too much for them. Also, they probably wanted to try for a military victory while the U.S. still had a sizable contingent of troops here, knowing we would not put them into combat.

"If successful, North Vietnamese propaganda could crow that the mighty United States was unable to stop them.

"The Soviets, at least to some extent, probably influenced Hanoi's decision to strike now. If North Vietnam won its gamble, by taking significant pieces of South Vietnam, President Nixon's position would be weakened at the Moscow summit."

(See Editor's Report, Page One)

GEN. GIAP, North Vietnamese military commander who beat the French at Dienbienphu with an old-fashioned encirclement maneuver, seems to be paraphrasing Gen. Douglas MacArthur's classic military thrust at Inchon in Korea.

Giap is, in effect, trying to cut the South Vietnam forces down the middle of the country, dissecting head from tail. That's precisely what the daring Inchon raid achieved. MacArthur's was seaborne; Giap's is taking place on land. If he were alive and in command, MacArthur now would be hammering at the President and Joint Chiefs to permit him to apply the Inchon treatment to North Vietnam, above Hanoi.

I HAVE IT straight from the Hallmark Cards people impartial observers, that the dear lady who in Mother's Day—don't miss it, next Sunday—died 84, a spinster.

She apparently was a dear person
Jarvis, of Grafton, W.Va. She was
home town and in Philadelphia
else to do of a Sunday
church services in
along until
claimed