

One Saigon Advance Unit Breaks Through to Anloc

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Saturday, June 10—The South Vietnamese Army reported yesterday that one of its units, stalled for weeks while trying to break through to besieged Anloc only one mile away, had finally succeeded in reaching the town.

It was clear, however, that the linkup, which reportedly occurred Wednesday, had not

broken the two-month siege of the devastated town 60 miles north of Saigon.

The main relief column, consisting mostly of the South Vietnamese 21st Division, remained bogged down miles away along Route 13. The road itself is still closed by strong North Vietnamese forces.

The advance unit reaching Anloc was one of those that had been lifted by helicopter to within a few miles of the town with the object of attacking the besieging Communist forces from the rear. As it developed, however, the unit had all it could do just to reach Anloc.

Helicopters Reach Town

The arrival of the new troops presumably did not significantly reinforce the defenders, who have suffered heavy casualties mainly because of incessant enemy shelling.

But while hundreds of shells continued to pour into Anloc, the situation was improved enough to permit helicopters to reach the town for the first time in about a week. A South Vietnamese spokesman said helicopters flew to Anloc Thursday and yesterday to evacuate casualties.

The defending troops suffered one unexpected difficulty yesterday when a United States Air Force F-4 accidentally dropped a bomb on a friendly position in Anloc. An American communique said casualties from the incident had not been determined.

One qualified military source said he foresaw no real possibility that the town could be relieved by road soon unless

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Saigon's troops reached Anloc (1). Enemy pockets were cleared from Kontum (2). B-52's bombed north of DMZ (3). Other jets attacked Hanoi area (4).

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the pressure at Kontum was reduced to the point at which fresh troops could be moved from there to the Anloc area.

Enemy Supply Problem Seen

The situation at Anloc would be enormously improved if planes could land there regularly once again, but this remains impossible because of the intensity of enemy shelling. A military source said:

"This may seem facetious, but it may be that the best hope for Anloc is that the North Vietnamese will give out of shells sooner or later. They can't keep firing them at the rate they have without having one hell of a supply problem."

At Kontum in the Central Highlands, which has also been encircled by large North Vietnamese forces for weeks, the situation was improved enough yesterday to allow a United States Air Force C-130 transport plane to land. This was the first such landing in two weeks at the airport, which was occupied by enemy troops at one point.

A military source said the last organized pockets of North Vietnamese resistance inside Kontum had finally been mopped up. He said house-to-house searches were continuing for the few Communist snipers remaining.

South Vietnamese forces reported, meanwhile, that they had killed 93 Communists and captured one Soviet-made T-54 tank in an operation Thursday one mile north of the city.

Foe Driven From Town

Fairly heavy fighting was reported yesterday near Trangbang 25 miles northwest of Saigon on Route 1, the road to Cambodia. The town was occupied by Communist troops Thursday and the road cut.

But despite enemy resistance and an accidental attack on Government troops and watching civilians by South Vietnamese planes dropping bombs and napalm, the road was cleared. Yesterday Trangbang was again in friendly hands.

Strong enemy forces were said to be fighting hard from positions in the nearby Hobo Woods, however, and B-52 strikes were made there. The Hobo Woods, an area of dense forest honeycombed with tunnels, is a traditional Vietcong sanctuary.

Among other developments were the following:

¶South Vietnamese marines operating in enemy-occupied Quangtri Province in the extreme north of the country clashed repeatedly with Com-

munist forces yesterday.

The marines, fighting from positions about three miles in enemy territory, reported having killed 27 Communists yesterday and 67 on Thursday. A military source said the force would probably withdraw after finishing its spoiling mission.

¶A military intelligence source said it was believed the North Vietnamese had now completed the movement of their entire 325 C Division into South Vietnam to add to the pressure on Hue. Heavy B-52 raids and naval bombardments of the demilitarized zone in recent days underscored allied apprehension about the movement.

¶Another intelligence source with long experience in Vietnam said yesterday that on the basis of current information, it appeared the North Vietnamese could replace their human losses in South Vietnam indefinitely, despite continuing heavy casualties.

"They are totally mobilized in the North with plenty of Home Guard divisions from which to replenish their losses," he said. "I also expect we shall soon be seeing North Vietnamese women troops in South Vietnam."

¶A South Vietnamese ranger unit released 200 civilian captives from a North Vietnamese prison camp in the northeast of Kontum Province several days ago, a military source disclosed yesterday.

B-52 Raids Continue

For the third day, United States Air Force B-52 bombers flew into North Vietnam yesterday and, with improving weather there, smaller tactical aircraft flew more than 200 sorties.

In the 24 hours ended at noon yesterday, the B-52's flew 10 million into North Vietnam, a spokesman said, hitting targets from 16 to 31 miles north of the demilitarized zone.

Targets listed as destroyed or damaged in the various raids included 6 bridges, 11 supply barges, 29 boats, warehouses and fuel depots.

Vehicle repair sites and barracks within five miles of Hanoi were attacked with guided bombs.

Cambodians Abandon Village

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, June 9 (Reuters)—Cambodian troops today abandoned the village of Paing Kasey, 28 miles south of here, to join a relief column after eight days of fighting.

A Cambodian high command spokesman said the Government forces pulled back 2½ miles to the north of the village.