

QUANGTRI REFUGEES

SHELLED, U.S. SAYS

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 7—The State Department said today that North Vietnamese forces had deliberately poured shells into columns of South Vietnamese civilian refugees last April 29 and 30, resulting in the deaths of 1,000 to 2,000 civilians.

John F. King, a department spokesman, told newsmen that witnesses including United States military advisers and Vietnamese Red Cross workers had reported that the North Vietnamese had fired 130-mm. artillery shells into the retreating columns of refugees on Route 1, just north of Quangtri city, and had "literally shredded" the lines of men, women and children.

A full picture of what has happened in Quangtri Province since it fell to Communist occupation in early May has not yet been compiled, Mr. King said, because South Vietnamese forces have not recaptured the entire area.

He made his assertions about the Quangtri shelling in the course of confirming the accuracy of a report, published last Friday in The New York Times, that said that in Binh Dinh Province, Communists had executed 250 and perhaps as many as 500 civilians.