

Saigon Paper Punished for Report on Air Support

By MALCOLM W. BROWNE

Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Sept. 22—An issue of a Saigon daily newspaper was confiscated by the Government, its editors charge, for having published a report "extolling the air support the United States gave in the battles of Quangtri province."

The newspaper, Dai Dan Toc, also faces possible Government prosecution, which could result in large fines and prison terms.

The article in question, which appeared in Wednesday's issue, was a dispatch from Agence France-Presse distributed by South Vietnam's official Government press service. South Vietnamese newspapers are permitted to publish only that foreign news provided by the Government agency and even then they may inadvertently infringe press laws.

The dispatch said that there had been 1,600 missions flown by American B-52 heavy bombers and 17,000 strikes by American tactical aircraft in support of the five-month Quangtri campaign.

Bombing Termed Americanized

The article said that this represented some 100,000 tons of bombs dropped by American planes at Quangtri, in addition to shelling by the American heavy cruiser Newport News.

The account said that although ground fighting had been Vietnamized during the last five months, bombing support had been increasingly Americanized.

In an editorial published yesterday, Dai Dan Toc told its readers: "Yesterday's issue of Dai Dan Toc was confiscated because of a news report extolling the wholehearted air support the United States gave in the battles in the province of Quangtri and for the re-occupation of Quangtri's old Citadel during the last five months. That performance is known by the whole world, but as far as the people are concerned, they will have to remain patient a little while longer—some day history will show them that figure."

Vo Long Trieu, editor and publisher of the newspaper, said in an interview today that he had not been officially informed why the publication of the article had resulted in the confiscation. He said he believed a provision of the press law was involved forbidding "the sowing of confusion among the masses."

The Ministry of Information did not respond to inquiries about the reason for the confiscation.

Despite the rigid Government restrictions on the newspapers there is a certain amount of veiled criticism of the United States that gets published, and there is speculation that the criticism is being quietly encouraged by the Government.

Readers of the South Vietnamese press have been amused recently, for example, by the transliterations adopted for some American names.

Many foreign personal and place names are transliterated in Vietnamese to make them

easier to pronounce. "Washington," for example, is usually rendered as "Hoa Thinh Don."

Usually the transliterations have no particular meaning in themselves, but, perhaps coincidentally, the name of Henry A. Kissinger, the President's adviser on national security, has had some peculiarly unflattering renderings in Vietnamese.

Traditional Double Meanings

Dai Dan Toc has transliterated "Kissinger" as "Ky Sinh Do," a combination perhaps adopted for purely phonetic reasons, but which happens to mean "dirty parasite."

Double entendre is tradition-

ally a mainstay of political satire in the Vietnamese press, and the Vietnamese tongue is especially well suited to framing all kinds of barbs and insults in apparently innocent language.

Open verbal or written attacks on the United States and its policies are never tolerated by the Saigon Government, but it tends to wink at the innuendos that turn up in the press.

In any case anti-American feeling is strongly expressed by most Vietnamese officials but only in private conversations with friends. Open insult is considered an unpardonable breach of diplomatic relations.