

An Upsurge in Acts of Sabotage And Shelling Reported by Saigon

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Tuesday, Oct. 3 (AP)—A sudden upsurge in North Vietnamese and Vietcong rocket and mortar attacks and sabotage was reported yesterday by the Saigon command.

The South Vietnamese military headquarters said that 100 of these hit-and-run assaults had been staged across the country, the highest number since July 25, when 103 were reported.

Lieut. Col. Le Trung Hien, the command's spokesman, said that he could not explain the sudden increase in enemy activity after a week in which ground action fell to its lowest level since the start of the North Vietnamese offensive March 30.

The attacks, none of which was described as heavy, were said to have included the shelling of a Government ranger unit and the destruction of a fuel tank and pipeline in an area 20 to 60 miles from Saigon. In the Mekong delta, Communist-led troops reportedly cut Route 4, the rice supply line to Saigon, by blowing up a small bridge 15 miles southeast of Cantho. Cantho is 80 miles from the capital.

Air War Near Saigon

United States B-52 bombers, meanwhile, kept up raids in the Saigon area, reportedly striking within 17 to 30 miles of the city against what were believed to be enemy troop positions and staging areas.

And over North Vietnam, the United States command said, Navy and Air Force fighter-bombers flew more than 250 strikes Sunday. The targets included a shipyard in Haiphong that the pilots said had been left in flames.

In a delayed report, the command reported that an Air Force F-105 was shot down by

a surface-to-air missile Friday 43 miles west of Hanoi. The two crewmen were listed as missing.

The American command has now reported the loss of 103 jets over the North in the six months of resumed full-scale bombing, and 108 American airmen have been added to the list of the missing during this period.

Thai Air Base Shelled

BANGKOK, Thailand, Oct. 2 (AP)—Thirty-six mortar shells were reported fired last night at the Ubon air base, one of the eight Thai airfields from which American planes strike at North Vietnam.

There were no casualties, United States spokesmen here said, and only a radio tower was damaged. The spokesmen reported also that security guards had driven a guerrilla sabotage team from the base area, which is about 300 miles northeast of Bangkok.

Mortars Hit Cambodian Airport

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Oct. 2 (AP) — Two mortar rounds struck the airport at the city of Kompot, 84 miles southwest of Pnompenh, today, killing nine civilian air passengers and wounding 20 others, the Cambodian command reported.

A spokesman said that the second mortar round struck a Cambodia Air Commercial DC-3 as it landed. An airline official and one witness, however, said that a barrage of rockets struck the airport and that the plane was on the ground when a missile landed nearby.

All the casualties were travelers of crewmen waiting to board the Kompot-to-Pnompenh shuttle craft, which was unloading passengers and cargo just after arrival.