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FOE NEAR SAIGON SAID TO BE RINGED

No Drive to Oust Infiltrators Now, Capital Aides Say

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Wednesday, Oct. 11—A South Vietnamese military spokesman said yesterday that Government forces were making no direct effort to oust the small groups of Communist infiltrators still holding on in hamlets 20 miles north of Saigon.

"The South Vietnamese troops have not yet attacked those hamlets," he declared. "They have surrounded the enemy to prevent him from going elsewhere."

The enemy infiltration, believed to be by several bat-

talions of the North Vietnamese Seventh Division, is much smaller than the large-scale invasion from Cambodia last spring into the Anloc area 60 miles north of Saigon. Lieut. Gen. Nguyen Van Minh, the commander of the military region, is therefore reported to be repositioning his troops slowly and to feel no sense of urgency.

Reports on Hamlets Vary

There were differing reports on just how many hamlets were still in Communist hands in the area of Binhduong Province, just north of Saigon, where small-scale fighting has been reported since last Friday.

The South Vietnamese command said Monday that after its troops had recaptured several hamlets near Phucong, the provincial capital, the Communists held only three others. But this was contradicted yesterday by American officers, who said they believed seven hamlets were still occupied.

In the other action close to Saigon yesterday, Communist troops reportedly blocked Route 1 in southern Tay Ninh Province about 35 miles northwest of the city. Reports from the scene were sketchy, but the North Vietnamese were said to have effectively cut the road leading to the Cambodian border.

330 Strikes in North Reported

United States and South Vietnamese tactical fighter planes continued to pound the North Vietnamese troops near Saigon, and American B-52 heavy bombers flew four missions, or 12 planes, in areas 24 to 27 miles from the capital, the American command said.

American Air Force and Navy jets also flew 330 tactical strikes against North Vietnam on Monday, a United States military spokesman announced. They were said to have hit the Yenbai airfield 80 miles northwest of Hanoi and destroyed seven SAM canisters near Donghoi, among other targets.

On the front in the northernmost part of South Vietnam, Government marines north of Quangtri City and paratroops southwest of it reported that 350 rounds of enemy shellfire had been directed at them Monday. The marines asserted that they had killed 24 of the enemy in a brief engagement, a Saigon spokesman said.

Cambodia Losses Reported

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Oct. 10 (AP)—The Cambodian command reported today that four Government posts were overrun yesterday south of Pnompenh on Route 2 near the South Vietnamese border.

Communist-led forces were now said to control a 25-mile stretch of the road from the village of Love, 45 miles south of here, to the border. Ground attacks were reported under way today on the village itself.



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Hamlets in Phucong area (1) continued in enemy's hands. U.S. jets bombed targets near Donghoi (2) and at Yenbai (3).