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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1972

## Saigon Reports Increase In Fighting Near the City

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Saturday, Oct. 21 (AP)—An increase in fighting was reported yesterday in the Saigon area.

The principal clashes between Government troops and Communist infiltrators reportedly came north and east of the capital, but South Vietnamese officers in the field continued to insist that there was no threat of a substantial ground attack on Saigon itself.

The Saigon command said that Communist troops were driven out of the riverside hamlet of Bung, 10 miles north of Saigon, after skirmishing that continued through the night.

Bungcau, 16 miles north of Saigon, came under rocket attack this morning in which two militiamen were reported killed and five wounded. Ten rockets were said to have hit a market and local administrative office there.

### Bombing Attacks Reported

Farther north, South Vietnamese troops reportedly killed 36 enemy soldiers in fighting four miles south of Bencat, and United States and South Vietnamese fighter-bombers were said to have killed 115 others. Government spokesmen said their troops lost six dead and 37 wounded.

East of Saigon, South Vietnamese rangers with air support reported the killing of 50 enemy soldiers in a clash 30 miles from the capital.

In other developments, military sources said a South Vietnamese reconnaissance team made a helicopter foray into Cambodia west of the Central Highlands and found fresh evidence of North Vietnamese tanks.

The scout team reportedly destroyed 50 barrels of gasoline and 30 houses at Bakev, 20 miles west of the border, and pilots reported seeing a large enemy force moving westward from the town.

### Pleiku Reported Hit

In fighting in the Central Highlands, the Saigon command said, 29 enemy died in attacks on militia positions about 20 miles south of Pleiku. It said militiamen lost four men killed and four wounded.

South Vietnamese troops reported retaking four hamlets in the Central Highlands province of Phubon, but elsewhere in the highlands the enemy was said to have fired rockets into Pleiku air base and to have cut the main highway between



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**Bung (1) was retaken by Saigon troops. Foe cut road between Kontum and Pleiku (2) and forced a retreat near Bato (3). U.S. jets bombed targets north of Hanoi (4).**

Pleiku and Kontum, the two main provincial capitals.

In the north-central coastal province of Quangngai, South Vietnamese rangers with air support said they killed more than 150 enemy soldiers near the battered district capital of Bato, but reports from the field said a furious counterattack two hours later forced the rangers to retreat with moderate losses.

### Cambodian Clashes Reported

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Oct. 20 (UPI) — Cambodian troops clashed twice with communist forces today 10 miles south of Pnompenh on Route 2 and the Cambodian command said 13 Government soldiers were killed.

Route 2 intersects a major infiltration route into South Vietnam.

On Thursday, the command said, Cambodian forces overran two North Vietnamese base camps near Oudong, which is 23 miles northwest of here, and recaptured the small town of Prey Choum, 44 miles south-east of Pnompenh.