

Raid on U.S. Thailand Base Reported**Raid on U.S.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (AP) — Pentagon sources report that Communist-led guerrillas recently attacked a base in eastern Thailand from which United States Air Force technicians control electronic surveillance of North Vietnamese supply routes through southern Laos.

United States intelligence analysts suggest that the small-arms attack on Nakhon Phanom early this week is linked with increased military activity by Thai Communists.

Reports reaching the Pentagon said that one American officer was wounded in the attack on Nakhon Phanom but that facilities and aircraft at the base escaped damage.

While the attack was minor in scope, the intelligence analysts appeared concerned that it might foreshadow more-serious threats to about 49,000 American airmen and other servicemen stationed at seven Thai bases.

Attacks on United States bases in Thailand have been rare, and in the past Thais have attributed them mostly to North Vietnamese guerrillas.

Some Thai officials long have forecast that their country would come under increased Communist pressure from inside and outside her borders after the Indochina war ends, even though strong United States Air Force elements are expected to remain in Thailand for an indefinite period.

Nakhon Phanom, less than 10 miles from Laos, is one of the most important bases used by the United States Air Force because it is the site of a multimillion-dollar "infiltration surveillance center."

From this center, equipped with computers and other advanced electronic equipment,

Air Force technicians monitor sensors dropped along the Ho Chi Minh Trail by American planes.

Information gathered by these sensors and digested at

the Nakhon Phanom center determines many of the targets struck by American bombers and gunships attempting interfere with North Vietnamese supply-truck movements.

The Thai armed forces are chiefly responsible for protecting the air bases.

However, American military men are less than satisfied with the performance of the Thai army in dealing with

insurgency, despite many years of United States aid and advice.

Last January, about 12,000 Thai troops mounted an extended operation against an estimated 600 rebel tribesmen in a mountainous area of north central Thailand.

After it was over, American military officials criticized the Thai troops for lack of aggressiveness.