

## Viet truce violations dip lower

United Press

SAIGON — Truce violations dipped to the lowest total in more than two weeks with most of the battle action reported in the Mekong delta, the South Vietnamese command reported yesterday.

Twenty-one Communists were reported slain without any government losses in a pair of clashes a dozen miles apart in the rice paddies of Chuong Thien province, 100 miles southwest of Saigon.

One of the morning battles Saturday involved a government militia unit, the other government infantry, said Lt. Col. Le Trung Hien, spokesman for the command.

Seventy-five miles farther south, barely 12 miles from the southernmost tip of South Vietnam, another early morning skirmish Saturday left eight Communists killed and three government militia wounded, Hien said. The battle occurred nine miles outside of Nam Can, a district town on the canal linking the Gulf of Thailand and the South China Sea.

Elsewhere in the Mekong delta, a civilian was killed and another wounded when a barge was hit by rocket grenades in Ba Xuyen province 100 miles south of Saigon.

In the only significant clash reported outside the Mekong delta, 12 Communists and one government soldier were slain in a skirmish 12 miles northeast of the provincial capital of Ban Me Thuot in the tiger hunting and coffee plantation country of the southwestern central highlands, Hien said.