

B-52s Retaliate

Relentless Red Attacks

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SAIGON — (UPI) — Communist troops attacked relentlessly throughout South Vietnam today, and American B-52s responded with a near-record number of raids over the North — on the day the Communists had chosen for a cease-fire.

The Saigon command reported 121 shelling, terror and ground attacks between dawn yesterday and dawn today.

2 Towns

The B-52s flew at least 39 raids between noon yester-

day and noon today, the U.S. Command said.

Communist troops overran two district capitals on the central coast — Ba To and Que Son.

Both towns had been wrecked by Communist artillery and Allied bombers in

the seven-month Red Vietnamese offensive.

UPI correspondent Edward Bassett said Que Son is nothing more than "a pile of rubble" and was abandoned by its 1000 government defenders early today under heavy Communist pressure.

13 Waves

Bassett also reported the fall of Ba To, after government Rangers held out against a two-month siege. The Rangers told Bassett they killed at least 40 Communists before finally pulling out. The bulk of the defenders made it to two nearby South Vietnamese army camps.

The B-52 raids came in 13 waves, matching the record set last Aug. 12.

At least 130 jet fighter-bombers hit North Vietnam yesterday, and a three-ship naval task force bombarded shore targets.

All U.S. offensive actions against the north were below the 20th Parallel, which runs 65 miles south of Hanoi, in line with the U.S. attempt to show "good will" during the peace negotiations.

● Communist troops seized five hamlets within 40 miles of Saigon today, but government forces recap-

tured three by nightfall, military sources said.

● South Vietnamese troops recaptured Tan Canh, an important central highlands base. It fell to the North Vietnamese in April.

● The Communists captured four hamlets 15 miles northwest of the highlands province capital of Cheo Reo today, but fled when government reinforcements arrived four hours later, UPI correspondent Matt Franjola said. The town is 195 miles north of Saigon.