

Hanoi Said to Speed War Supplies Into South

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 31—United States military intelligence officials said today that North Vietnam began a "heavy movement" of war matériel into South Vietnam about 10 days ago in an apparent effort to build up its forces in preparation for a cease-fire.

Intelligence reports show that matériel ranging from artillery pieces to tracked vehicles, fuel to foodstuffs, has been flowing at a high rate into South Vietnam along the Laotian infiltration trails, the coastal routes across the demilitarized zone and the so-called Parrot's Beak area in Cambodia.

They said that Hanoi was reintroducing troops from Cambodia at this time because the terms of the cease-fire would prevent the entry of any fresh foreign troops into South Vietnam.

The build-up was said to have been made possible by the gradual drying of the trails at the end of the monsoon season.

Officials said that the new movement from Cambodia also included troops that had been resting in rear areas after suffering extensive losses during the Communist spring offensive in the unsuccessful attempt to overrun Anloc, 60 miles north of Saigon.

Present intelligence estimates place the total strength of North Vietnamese forces in South Vietnam and Cambodia at about 145,000 men, with "a shade over 100,000," as one official put it, in South Vietnam.

Some 20,000 North Vietnamese troops are reported deployed but they are said to operate separately from the South Vietnam-Cambodia force.

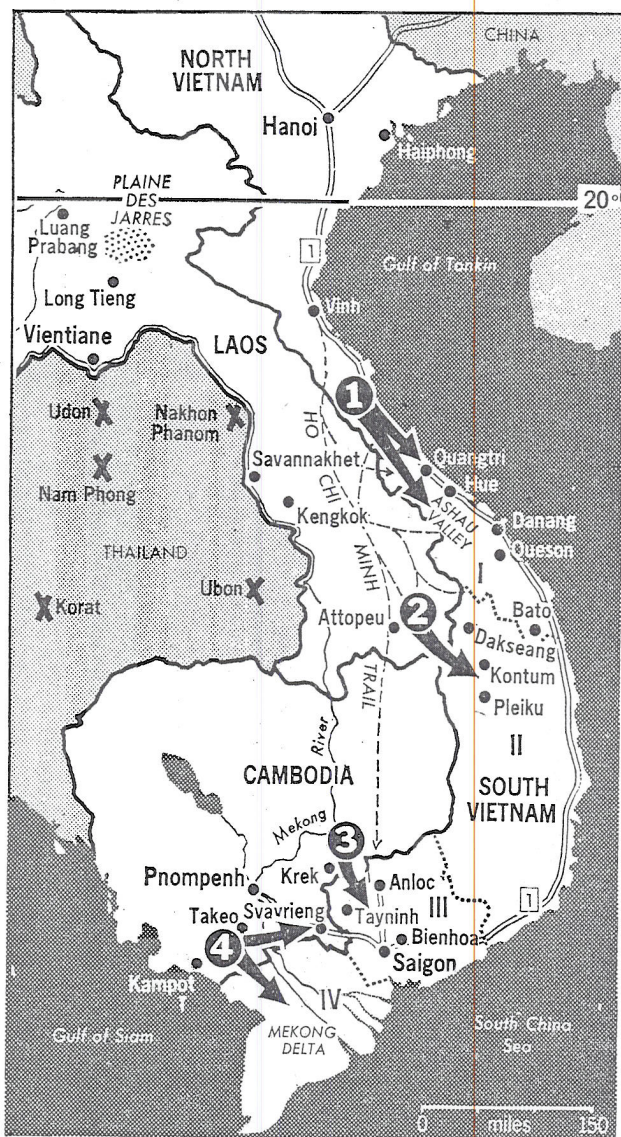
Parallels U. S. Shipments

The Communist build-up parallels a significant acceleration in deliveries of jets, tanks and other military equipment by the United States to South Vietnam before material levels are frozen by the expected cease-fire.

Pentagon officials said late last week that the United States had stepped up the rate of shipments to the South Vietnamese armed forces to leave them as well prepared as possible for the truce.

Intelligence specialists emphasized today that North Vietnam seemed anxious to replenish the resources of its forces both to maintain their fighting acapacity and to allow future replacement of lost equipment.

The draft peace agreement negotiated by Henry A. Kissinger, President Nixon's assistant for national security, and the North Vietnamese representatives in Paris provides for



Flow of North Vietnamese supplies into South Vietnam was reported principally along coastal route (1) to Quangtri area, from southern Laos (2) toward Kontum and southeastern Cambodia (3) to Anloc area. Troops were moving from southern Cambodia (4) to Saigon.

replacement of equipment at the level existing when the cease-fire goes into effect.

Defense Department officials said that American planes, including B-52 bombers, had been concentrating their attacks in recent days on the Laotian and Parrot's Beak infiltration routes, while the Navy was bombing the coastal highway north of the demilitarized zone in a major effort to halt the flow of enemy supplies.

Intelligence reports indicate that if a cease-fire were declared today, the following would be the disposition of regular North Vietnamese units in each of the four military regions of South Vietnam:

Seven North Vietnamese divisions are reportedly concentrated in Military Region I, between the demilitarized zone and the Central Highlands,

along with some 10 independently operating regiments, for a total of some 35,000 men. These divisions are the 304th, 308th, 316th, 324th (considered under-strength), 325th, 711th and 2d, which also operates in the Second Military Region. The independent regiments include five artillery regiments.

As of today, intelligence officials said, the South Vietnamese Government controls only the coastal strip in the First Military Region with the North Vietnamese pressing them hard. In recent days, for example, the North Vietnamese have reportedly been firing between 700 and 1,000 rounds of heavy artillery and rockets daily at the South Vietnamese marines near Quangtri.

The inland section of the First Military Region was de-

scribed as a "no-man's land" where Hanoi could easily establish control.

Intelligence officials estimated that half of the North Vietnamese troops in the First Military Region were in the Quangtri area and the balance astride Route 546 leading to the Ashau Valley on the Laotian border.

In Military Region II, covering the Central Highlands and the Coastal lowlands, there are said to be three North Vietnamese divisions; the 2d, which sometimes moves up to the First Military Region, the 3d in the coastal lowlands and the 320th in the Pleiku-Kontum area. In addition, there are reported to be three independent regiments in this region.

There, too, the South Vietnamese hold most of the coastal area while the North Vietnamese have the freedom of movement in the Central Highlands. The military situation there this week was described as a "stand-off."

Military Region III, which includes Saigon, Anloc, Tay Ninh and Bienhoa, was described by the intelligence officials as one of the "most mixed-up" and "most difficult" in South Vietnam. They said this is because of the "leopard spots" pattern in which the North Vietnamese and the South Vietnamese control contiguous areas without a defined dividing line.

The seventh and the ninth North Vietnamese Divisions and six independent regiments, two of them artillery, are reported in this region and they are said to be receiving reinforcements from Cambodia from elements of the first division, which fought at Anloc.

Attacks Could Be 'Mask'

Intelligence specialists said that the recent flurry of North Vietnamese and Vietcong attacks near Saigon could be designed to "mask the movement of new supplies."

In Military Region IV, comprising the Mekong River Delta, North Vietnam is said to maintain its Fifth Division along with three independent regiments. The fifth division reportedly operates southwest of Saigon. The Communists control two provinces in this region, intelligence officials said, and the "leopard spots" pattern could mean that "new problems" were developing there.

The forces in the Delta are reportedly supplied from Cambodia.

An intelligence official said that "the enemy is obviously preparing for the next round." He and other specialists said the cease-fire was "certain to be followed by a great deal of guerrilla-type fighting by both sides."