

Saigon Reports Pullout of North Viet Units

DANANG, Nov. 26 — South Vietnamese intelligence officers say they have detected a small but steady withdrawal back across the borders of South Vietnam.

Military sources here said Sunday that South Vietnam's President Thieu had ordered a full report on the movement which, if it reaches major proportions, could have a vital bearing on the current peace talks.

The sources said that the movement was still in progress but would not speculate on whether it indicated a sizable withdrawal, or merely a regrouping.

One of South Vietnam's major objections to the draft agreement worked out in Paris between the United States and Hanoi has been the lack of guarantees for the withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops after a cease-fire.

The government has said it estimates there are 300,000 regular North Vietnamese troops in the south, but the U.S. command in Saigon puts the figure at 150,000.

The sources said that in the past few weeks an estimated 2,000 troops had withdrawn from the northern provinces of Quangtri and Quangnam into neighboring Laos and North Vietnam.

The movement was first detected by electronic sensors dropped by U.S. planes and later confirmed by government patrols operating behind North Vietnamese lines, the sources said.

It first became noticeable on Nov. 12. Since then observers have reported a steady movement.

The reports of troop withdrawals came as Nhan Dhan, North Vietnam's official newspaper, said that Hanoi is not prepared to make further concessions concerning the withdrawal of North Vietnamese troops from South Vietnam.

An article signed by "Commentator," believed to be a high-ranking Hanoi official, said an acceptable solution had been agreed upon by the two sides in previous negotiations.

According to the article, which was transmitted by the North Vietnam news agency, the United States had agreed to leave the question of "Vietnamese armed forces in South Vietnam" to be settled by the two South Vietnamese parties.

In return, Hanoi is reported to have given a private pledge to withdraw 35,000 of its approximately 120,000 troops in South Vietnam after the signing of the agreement, although the Nhan Dhan made no mention of this.

[U.S. B-52 bombers, meanwhile, attacked both sides of the Demilitarized Zone over the weekend. The bombers flew 14 missions against North Vietnam's southern panhandle and near the front lines of the South Vietnamese forces in Quangtri province, the Associated Press reported.]

[Bad weather, however, continued to hamper U.S. fighter-bombers over North Vietnam. The U.S. Command reported only 30 strikes Saturday and said it had no report of significant bomb damage.]