

B52s Try to

Block Reds'

Saigon Move

SAIGON — (AP) — Fresh North Vietnamese troops today were reported infiltrating toward Saigon from the Parrot's Beak region of Cambodia. They ran into a battalion of South Vietnamese militia and touched off one of the sharpest ground battles in weeks.

Initial field reports said 87 North Vietnamese were killed in the fighting nine miles south of the provincial capital of Tay Ninh.

Thirteen U.S. B-52 strikes were flown in an arc-shaped area stretching 23 miles northeast and 48 miles northwest of Saigon, the U.S. command reported. The strikes apparently were in response to the enemy thrust.

More strikes were flown in Binh Duong Province, south and east of Tay Ninh. They were the heaviest in that province since Oct. 6.

The Parrot's Beak, which stabs like a dagger toward Saigon, is a traditional jumping-off point for North Vietnamese units attempting to slip through the capital's outer defenses. But U.S. military sources said there is no major threat yet to Saigon.

About 20 of the big bombers struck again at a North Vietnamese staging area just above the demilitarized zone, dropping some 600 tons of bombs within a five-mile radius.

Three more B-52s hit an area one mile west of the port of Dong Hoi, 45 miles north of the DMZ, the U.S. Command reported.

It was the fifth straight

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day the Stratofortresses have zeroed in on the coastal area above the DMZ.

More than 50 B-52 strikes were flown against targets in South Vietnam, about 20 of them in northernmost Quang Tri Province.

B-52 strikes near the district town of Ba Tom, on the central coastal plain, wiped out a Communist barracks;

and 91 enemy bodies were found, the South Vietnamese reported. South Vietnamese infantrymen located 40 weapons among the debris of 15 barrack buildings and 2½ tons of rice left by those who fled.

In the southernmost Mekong Delta province, An Xuyen, militiamen fought off a heavy enemy attack on an outpost yesterday and killed 25 Communists, but 14 of the militiamen were

killed and 11 were wounded in the battle, the Saigon command reported.

A total of 70 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong attacks were reported across South Vietnam from 6 a.m. yesterday to 6 a.m. today, the command announced. All but 17 were by shelling.

The U.S. Command said Typhoon Teresa ripped through the Lang Army Air Base on the central coast yesterday, damaging three

helicopters and a Skyraider fighter bomber and bringing military operations in the area to a halt.

The storm also devastated several refugee camps, leaving several thousand refugees without shelter, Vietnamese officials reported. The village of Cat Trang was virtually destroyed, but casualties among the civilian population have not been reported to Saigon authorities.