

Raids Go On in Southern North Vietnam

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Tuesday, Jan. 9 (AP)—Heavy United States air raids were continued yesterday against the southern part of North Vietnam in an effort to check the flow of men and material to Communist forces in South Vietnam.

The United States command said that B-52 heavy bombers flew 15 missions presumably consisting of three planes each—and tactical fighter-bombers during the 24-hour period ended at 8 A.M. yesterday.

The bulk of the B-52 strikes were said to have been in the region of Thanh Hoa, a port city 12 miles south of the 20th Parallel.

B-52 strikes to suppress enemy activity were also flown in South Vietnam from Quang Tri in the north to the Mekong Delta, the command said.

Vi Thanh Reported Attacked

Reporting on the ground war, the South Vietnamese command said that enemy mortars killed nine civilians and wounded 49 more in a daylight attack yesterday on the provincial capital of Vi Thanh, 110 miles southwest of Saigon.

At the same time, the Saigon command said that North Vietnamese and Vietcong attacks across the country dropped from an average of 100 a day in the last five days to 77 for the 24-hour period ended at dawn yesterday. Most of the attacks consisted of shelling by mortars and rockets, the command reported.

Reports from the field said that South Vietnamese units battled Communist troops yesterday in three separate engagements in areas 30 to 60 miles north of Saigon. South Vietnamese casualties were put at



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Areas near Thanh Hoa (1) and Quang Tri (2) were among B-52 targets. In ground war, fighting was reported near Saigon (3) and Tram Khnar (4).

eight killed and nine wounded. Communist casualties were not given.

In other developments, United States spokesmen reported the loss of the 33d American warplane since Dec. 18, when the intensive bombardment of the Hanoi and Haiphong regions began. The spokesmen said that an Air Force F-4 Phantom returning from a mission

crashed near Udon Thani air base in northeast Thailand. The two crewmen were said to have bailed out safely.

Ninety-nine crewmen have been killed, captured or are listed as missing as a result of the plane losses in this period, according to United States command reports.

New Drive at Tram Khnar

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Jan. 8 (Reuters)—The Cambodian command reported today that Government troops, supported by waves of air strikes, had renewed their effort to push Communist forces away from the outskirts of the battered southern town of Tram Khnar.

The Government soldiers were said to have come under harassing fire throughout the night inside the town, 24 miles south of here, and at surrounding positions. At dawn, the command said, the Government force, numbering 2,000 men including reinforcements, advanced cautiously again from the town's southern edge.

Fighting Near Saravane

VIENTIANE, Laos, Jan. 8 (AP)—A Government military spokesman said today that there had been a steady increase in fighting near the provincial capital of Saravane, 280 miles southeast of Vientiane.

Ten Communist soldiers were killed and eight wounded during the weekend, while Government troops suffered light casualties, the spokesman said.

Other Communist troops reportedly fired eight rockets into Thakhek, in the Laotian panhandle 150 miles northwest of Saravane, killing two civilians and wounding three.

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