

# Heavy Red Attacks in Vietnam

## Saigon

Enemy forces nearly doubled their attacks across South Vietnam in a high point of activity before a cease-fire, the Saigon command announced today.

Military headquarters reported 95 enemy attacks during the 24-hour period ended at 6 a.m. today, compared with 52 in the previous 24 hours. About two-thirds were rocket and mortar assaults.

American warplanes pounded enemy positions throughout South Vietnam yesterday and South Vietnamese infantrymen mounted spoiling operations on the ground.

## DESIGN

Military sources said the air raids—the heaviest in one day in five months—and the ground thrusts were designed to prevent an enemy land grab before a cease-fire.

The U.S. command reported that fighter-bombers carried out 374 attacks across the country in the 24-hour period ended at 8 a.m. yesterday. During the same period B-52 bombers made 80 raids, from the northernmost province of Quang Tri to the southern Mekon delta.

South Vietnamese marines and paratroopers met continued heavy resistance as they attempted to regain ground in Quang Tri province — territory just under the demilitarized zone where Communist troops took over in their invasion of the south last spring.

## SLACKENING

The heavy fighting that has raged in the Michelin rubber plantation 40 miles northwest of Saigon appeared to have slackened, but field officers said they expected renewed attacks in the area.

American sources said

Communist forces are planning large-scale attacks in the last days before signing of a cease-fire agreement. Such attacks, the sources said, would include attempts to occupy as many villages and hamlets near Saigon as possible.

Field sources said a company-sized Communist force tried to infiltrate a hamlet 20 miles northwest of Saigon. South Vietnamese militiamen engaged the force, which withdrew half an hour later.

*Associated Press*