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# Increased Action On Viet Fronts

## Saigon

The warring sides in South Vietnam appeared to be redoubling their efforts yesterday to gain footholds for the cease-fire and the impending political struggle.

Increased battlefield action and a variety of other indicators showed the Communists moving to consolidate positions in areas they now contest or control, allied officials said.

The Saigon government was reported planning a security crackdown for the weekend before the cease-fire, which begins officially at 3 a.m. Sunday Saigon time.

## INCIDENTS

The South Vietnamese military command reported 95 "enemy - initiated incidents" across the country in the 24 hours ended at dawn yesterday, the most since January 6.

Communiques said 147

North Vietnamese were killed in the fighting. South Vietnamese troop losses were put at 11 killed and 37 wounded, and civilian casualties at one killed and 25 wounded.

Allied sources said the North Vietnamese First Division in southern Cambodia is trying again to cross into South Vietnam's western Mekong delta, where it operated before 1970. The sources said this move also was part of the Communist drive to regain footholds in South Vietnam before the cease-fire.

## PLANES

U.S. and South Vietnamese aircraft continued normal operations. But U.S. sources indicated American bombing would begin tapering off today, although some raids probably will be made until just before the truce deadline.

Priority during this period probably will go to attacks

in direct support of ground troops in trouble, the sources said. They said it also is likely that American military advisers in the field with South Vietnamese units and assigned to provincial and districts teams will begin pulling out in the next few days.

## SILENCE

U.S. Combat advisers still are present at battalion level with South Vietnamese paratroopers operating in the northernmost province of Quang Tri, where some of the heaviest fighting has recently occurred. In most other areas they operate below division level only as the need arises.

Major Jere K. Forbus, a U.S. command spokesman, turned aside questions at yesterday's news briefing about standdown orders for remaining U.S. air and advisory personnel in Vietnam.

Associated Press