

Cambodia

Reds Smash Attacks

Phnom Penh

Communist forces, reportedly using captured American artillery, yesterday fought off government troops trying to regain control of Highway 1 and relieve the beleaguered naval base at Neak Luong.

Reports said fierce fighting broke out on Highway 1, the road from Phnom Penh to Saigon, about 15 miles southwest of the Cambodian capital. A government armored column trying to break through roadblocks on the vital highway was thrown back by the Communist forces, the reports said.

According to reports, the Communists scattered the government forces with captured American 105-mm. howitzers, killing at least three soldiers and wounding 14 others.

(American air attacks over Cambodia were reported for the second consecutive day yesterday by the U.S. Pacific Command in Honolulu. The command also reported air attacks in neighboring Laos.

The bombing in Cambodia was centered north of the capital of Phnom Penh and was requested by the Cambodian government, a U.S. spokesman said. The spokesman declined to disclose other details of the bombing.)

While the fierce fighting continued, Defense Minister Thappana Nginn said he expected a cease-fire to go into effect in Cambodia soon after one is declared in neighboring Laos. The Laos cease-fire is expected within a week.

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