

SFChronicle FEB 19 1973

Plea, Orders Fail to End Viet Fighting

N.Y. Times Service

Saigon

The recent upsurge in fighting showed no signs of abating today despite an urgent appeal by the Joint Military Commission for an immediate end to hostilities.

A Saigon military spokesman said there had been no significant change in the battlefield picture since the military commission, composed of the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam and Viet Cong, issued its appeal Saturday.

The spokesman, Colonel Le Trung Hien, placed the full blame for the continued fighting on the Communist side.

ATTACKS

"There were still shelling attacks, ground attacks and penetrations into hamlets," Hien said. "It seems that the Communist units have not tried at all to respect the appeal made by the Joint Military Commission."

Viet Cong and North Vietnamese members of the Joint Military Commission, who are sequestered by the South Vietnamese authorities at Tan Son Nhut air base and barred from meeting with newsmen, could not be reached for comment.

On Saturday, South Vietnamese authorities warned newsmen that if they attempt to visit the Communist members of the Joint Military Commission, who have diplomatic status under the terms of the Paris peace agreement, they could be shot by military policemen.

FLIGHTS

In his attack on alleged Communist violations of the cease-fire, Hien asserted that South Vietnamese

forces had halted all armed flights by military aircraft since the Joint Military Commission appeal was issued at noon Saturday.

During much of the three week old cease-fire, the South Vietnamese air force has been flying 100 to 200 tactical air sorties per day.

Such flights are forbidden by the protocol to the Paris peace accord but were defended by Saigon as "acts of self defense."

The military commission's appeal called for an end to such flights as well as to all

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hostilities throughout South Vietnam.

ORDERS

Orders were reported to have been issued by both the Communist and Saigon sides to comply with the appeal, which was also broadcast by Saigon radio and by the Viet Cong radio.

But the broadcasts and the orders seemed not to be having much effect on the combat situation around the country.

According to Saigon, the Communists have violated the cease-fire more than 3700 times since it began on January 28. The South Vietnamese allege about 165 violations a day.

Yesterday, Saigon authorities reported that in two clashes near Duc Pho in

Quang Ngai province in northern South Vietnam, 21 Communist soldiers were killed.

CASUALTIES

In that same area the day before, according to the Saigon authorities, a series of clashes claimed 51 lives on the Communist side and six on the Saigon side.

In another clash, Saturday, at Duc Hua district town in Hau Nghia province near Saigon, five Communist soldiers were killed and one South Vietnamese militiaman wounded, according to the Saigon authorities. Earlier, Saigon reported, 30 Communist soldiers and three South Vietnamese soldiers were killed in clashes in the same area.

U.S. planes continued operations yesterday over Laos and Cambodia at the

request of the governments of those countries, the Pacific military command reported.

As usual, a command spokesman declined to elaborate on the operations.

The Pathet Lao said today three more U.S. planes were shot down over Laos earlier this month, according to a Reuters dispatch from Hong Kong.

The Communist report said a C-47 and two other aircraft were shot down in the eight-day period ending February 9. It did not mention the fate of their crews.

According to Saigon figures, the cease-fire fighting has resulted in a total of 7018 Communist dead and 1218 South Vietnamese troops killed. Saigon says 5588 of its men have been wounded and 913 are missing.