

## Bombing Near Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh,  
Cambodia

American B-52s bombed rebel concentrations in the outskirts of this capital yesterday in an attempt to break the Communists hold on major highways and waterways and to head off a possible assault on the city itself.

Fuel supplies already are running low in Phnom Penh and a convoy of South Vietnamese cargo and fuel ships was reported prepared to make a dash up the Mekong river to the capital this morning.

Ambushes from river banks by Communist Vietnamese and Cambodian Khmer Rouge forces have kept the supplies of oil and cargo from reaching Phnom Penh by water. The main highway to the chief seaport of Kompong Som south of Phnom Penh has been cut.

### SUBURBAN

The eight-jet B-52s, flying from nearby Thailand, attacked near the suburban town of Takhmau, 14 miles southeast of Phnom Penh in missions extending from Thursday night to yesterday. Informants said the targets were about 2000 Communist command troops believed concentrated in the area.

Khmer Rouge forces in that sector have closed off a 30-mile segment of Highway 1 between Phnom Penh and the Neak Luong ferry crossing for more than two weeks. Highway 1 links Phnom Penh with Saigon in South Vietnam.

Heavy U.S. air attacks were reported in that area too but Cambodian troops have been able to regain only a few hundred yards a day.

### REPORTS

Military sources say the B-52s are flying as many as 120 sorties a day along the Highway 1 area. A sortie is one mission by one plane.

In another development, the Viet Cong said that Saigon reports of stepped-up Communist attacks in South Vietnam, allegedly in preparation for a full-scale offensive, are a smokescreen for the government's own land-grabbing operations.

"The Provisional Revolutionary Government is planning no offensive of any kind," declared a spokesman in Saigon for the Viet Cong delegation to the Joint Military Commission charged with supervising the cease-fire.

The spokesman catalogued a series of regimental-size operations he alleged South Vietnamese

forces have launched in the last week against Communist-held areas throughout much of the country.

The Saigon command, meanwhile, reported that Communist forces were maintaining their assaults in all four military regions of South Vietnam.

The chief military spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Le Trung Hien, said North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops stepped up attacks on the Tong Le Chan ranger base, 50 miles north of Saigon, and on defense positions west of Hue.

*Associated Press*