

N. Viet Slows Troops Into South, Sends Technocrats

SAIGON — (UPI) — North Vietnam has slowed its movement of troops and war material into South Vietnam in the past three weeks, sending instead government technocrats to help the Viet Cong administer Communist controlled areas, diplomatic sources said yesterday.

The move indicates that the Communists are preparing for a massive political action campaign in South Vietnam, Allied intelligence officials say.

"However, they will keep their options open for a major escalation of military activity if the political campaign fails," the diplomatic source said.

"They have been sending down whole teams of experts in city management — stenographers, administrators, political cadres and technicians such as people who know how to run power and water plants," one source said.

The source said from 40 to 60 percent of the North Vietnamese infiltration so far this month has involved civilian rather than soldiers.

"These are North Vietnamese," he said. "They are being sent down because the PRG (Viet Cong Provisional Revolutionary Government) have proven themselves too incompetent to govern the territories in

South Vietnam they occupy."

The source cited the infiltration as further evidence of the Viet Cong's lack of competence in administration and technical matters.

Communist and South Vietnamese government infantry and armored units clashed at mid-day yesterday near the Cambodian frontier, 100 miles west of the capital, the Saigon Command said.

The command said 35 Communists and two government soldiers were killed and 14 Saigon soldiers were wounded. The battle rounded off the second week of heavy fighting near Hon Ngu, a Mekong River town.