

OCT 25 1973

A Report of North Viet Troop Shifts

Washington SFChronicle

American intelligence officials report that North Vietnam has moved than 70,000 fighting men, 400 tanks and more than 200 artillery pieces into South Vietnam since the cease-fire nine months ago.

Additionally, these sources said, the North Vietnamese army has moved 15 anti-aircraft artillery regiments to the south, has nearly completed a new all-weather highway south of Tay Ninh province and has rebuilt 12 airfields along the hilly western perimeter of South Vietnam.

Most of the troops and material are considered only nominally a violation of the truce, since they came by way of Laos before there was a peace agreement there and before an international control system was functioning.

The bolstering of Communist forces in South Vietnam has continued unabated since the cease-fire of January 28, the officials said.

Los Angeles Times

OCT 25 1973

Big Attack in Highlands Of Vietnam

Saigon SFChronicle

Rebel troops backed by tanks and heavy artillery launched a massive attack or a South Vietnamese infantry column trying to recapture Le Minh border base in the central highlands, a military spokesman said today.

A government infantry battalion of more than 300 men was driven from its position and by this morning 250 of them had reached a regimental headquarters.

The North Vietnamese 320th Division, which controls the Cambodian border area of western Pleiku province, hit the government column at a point 12 miles southwest of Pleiku city.

In Cambodia, a battle to reopen Highway 5, linking Phnom Penh with the northern rice provinces, continued yesterday against stubborn resistance, the military command reported.

It also reported fighting at three other points around Cambodia.

Reuters