

SAIGON, South Vietnam, July 9 (AP) — South Vietnamese troops pressed their new drive into Cambodia today but for a second day reported no contact with enemy units.

Saigon headquarters reported only that the infantrymen uncovered an arms cache in the Parrot's Beak area of eastern Cambodia, where 1,400 South Vietnamese troops were landed by United States helicopters yesterday.

In South Vietnam, for the third successive day, there was almost no fighting.

About 500 United States troops of the First Brigade, Fifth Mechanized Division, today pulled out of Fire Base Charlie 2 on a barren hill four miles south of the demilitarized zone, which straddles the border between North and South Vietnam. They were replaced by infantrymen of the South Vietnamese First Division.

#### 50 G. I's Left Behind

About 50 American artillerymen and technicians were left behind to man a battery of 8-inch guns and to monitor radar and sensor equipment that detects infiltrators.

The base has been under repeated North Vietnamese rocket and mortar attack. On May 21, a rocket struck a bunker killing 29 soldiers and wounding 33.

On Thursday, American troops relinquished nearby Fire Base Alpha 4 to the South Viet-

namese. There, too, they left behind a contingent of artillerymen and electronics technicians.

The American withdrawal from Charlie 2 completed a turnover at the northern border that began in 1969. The South Vietnamese now have the responsibility to defend the country's most sensitive frontier.

United States officers believe that it will take time to determine whether the South Vietnamese can guard the northern front alone, but one American said: "I think they can. I hope so. Otherwise a lot of Americans will have died in vain."

#### General Has Misgivings

The North Vietnamese have made repeated drives in this sector and are soon expected to mount another aimed at seizing the populous coastal lowlands and disrupting South Vietnam's presidential elections Oct. 3.

The First Division is regarded as South Vietnam's best, but it took severe casualties in the thrust into southern Laos in February and March.

Brig. Gen. Vu Van Giai, field commander near the demilitarized zone, voiced misgivings about the American pullout.

"We would like them to stay," he said in an interview. "We want them to stay and help us fight. But this is our

country and the war is not finished." He added:

"We are going to deploy our troops as best we can. Whether or not we can do it we shall see."

General Giai remarked that he did not know whether the North Vietnamese would immediately attack the newly emplaced South Vietnamese, but he said that he expected increased activity as election time drew nearer.

Some 20,000 North Vietnamese soldiers are believed to be in the area and General Giai conceded that they were able fighters.

#### Drive Has Been Uneventful

The two-day-old South Vietnamese drive into Cambodia has been uneventful so far. The infantrymen were ferried from a border base to points six to nine miles inside Cambodia, about 65 miles northwest of Saigon. They hope to link up with 1,500 South Vietnamese troops moving southward from the Cambodian town of Kompung Trach about 20 miles away.

One objective is to trap a 400-man North Vietnamese demolition battalion that is believed to be in the Parrot's Beak area. The Saigon forces also hope to uncover enemy arms and supply caches, disrupt communications and slow infiltration into the southern part of South Vietnam.