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PARIS AFP IN SPANISH 0428 GMT 7 FEB 68 E

(TEXT) SAIGON-- THE LANG VEI CAMP HAS BEEN DESTROYED AND OCCUPIED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE, IT WAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED HERE THIS MORNING.

7 FEB 0457 AN/RS

(173)

(SUBS PREVIOUS)

VIETNAM

BY EDWIN Q. WHITE

91-C

(SAIGON)--NORTH VIETNAMESE INFANTRYMEN SUPPORTED BY NINE MEDIUM TANKS AND FLAME-THROWERS MADE REPEATED ASSAULTS ON THE LANG VEI (LAHNG VAY) SPECIAL FORCES IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SOUTH VIETNAM EARLY WEDNESDAY AND PENETRATED THE BARBED WIRE PERIMETER.

THE U-S COMMAND SAYS RADIO CONTACT WITH THE AMERICAN GREEN BERET TROOPERS INSIDE THE CAMP WAS LOST FOR MORE THAN AN HOUR BUT WAS RE-ESTABLISHED AND IT APPEARED THE MONTAGNARD MILITIAMEN IN THE CAMP AND THEIR AMERICAN ADVISERS ARE STILL HOLDING OUT.

THE COMMAND SAID FIVE OF THE ENEMY'S RUSSIAN-MODEL T-34 TANKS WERE DESTROYED. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE ENEMY HAS BEEN REPORTED USING TANKS IN THE VIETNAM WAR.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE MILITARY HEADQUARTERS HAD REPORTED EARLIER THAT THE CAMP FOUR MILES WEST OF THE LAOTIAN BORDER AND ABOUT 20 MILES SOUTH OF THE DE-MILITARIZED ZONE HAD BEEN OVER-RUN.

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAYS A RECONNAISSANCE PLANE FLYING OVER THE CAMP AT DAWN SAW NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS MOVING INSIDE IT. HE ADDED THAT THE PILOT REPORTED MAKING RADIO CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF THE CAMP'S GARRISON WHO SAID THEY HAD WITHDRAWN FROM THE CAMP.

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