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Marine Guns Answer Enemy

Marine artillerymen answer the challenge of Communist gunners with counter-battery fire from their dug-in position near the embattled outpost of Con Thien along the DMZ. The artillery units that ring the outpost return Communist fire daily. (AP)

Second Raise This Year

U.S. Hikes Viet Workers Pay

SAIGON (UPI) — The U.S. government has given \$7 million in raises to about 85,000 of the Vietnamese workers it employs.

The boost averages about 13 per cent and is the second one this year. In February, boosts averaging 13 to 15 per cent went into effect.

Inflation has sent prices in Saigon up 46 per cent in the past year — 30 per cent since Jan. 1.

The reason for the raises is that hiring agents, chiefly for contractors with "cost-plus" contracts with the U.S. government have been ignoring specified pay schedules when they couldn't hire labor at the going rate.

The result, one U.S. official said, was that a personnel manager who could not find truck drivers at the specified salary for drivers hired them at the salaries for interpreters.

Consequently, some highly-qualified people hired earlier were being paid less than unskilled workers hired later.

The United States and its contractors are the second largest employer in South Vietnam. Only the Vietnamese government employs more people.

The contractors' generosity didn't cost them anything under the "cost plus" contracts which guarantee that they will recover their expenses plus a profit.

In all, 130,000 South Vietnamese are employed by the U.S.

and U.S. contractors. Sixty-five per cent of them got wage boosts.

The average worker employed by the U.S. and its contractors here receives an average salary of 30 to 35 piasters an hour with time-and-a-half after 48 hours. Most receive overtime.

Although the range is quite wide, the average paycheck probably comes to about \$20 a week.

1,240 Candidates In Viet Election

SAIGON (AP) — A total of 1,240 candidates will seek seats in the Oct. 22 election for the 137-member House of Representatives, the government news agency Vietnam Press said Tuesday.

The representatives will be elected from 53 constituencies throughout South Vietnam. Saigon, the capital, will elect 15 representatives from three districts.

Casualties

WASHINGTON (S&S) — The Defense Department has announced the following casualties in connection with the conflict in Vietnam.

KILLED IN ACTION

Army
Sgt. James R. Watson, Oxnard, Calif.
SP4 George W. Dekker, San Mateo, Calif.
Pfc. Errol D. Smallwood, Macon, Ga.
SP4 Douglas C. Storry, Roseville, Mich.
Pfc. Dennis W. Marcotte, Hancock, Mich.
SP4 Joseph Archuleta, Albuquerque, N.M.
SP4 Harold J. Sturgill Jr., Abingdon, Va.

Marine Corps
Pfc. David A. Krison, Chicago, Ill.
LCpl. David F. Garrett, Evansville, Ind.

