



Ready to Jump—When Seconds Count

Troops of the 2nd Bn., 27th Inf., 25th Inf. Div. stand on the skids of their chopper as they drop into a landing zone during a

search and destroy mission 30 miles northwest of Saigon where the division's 2nd Brigade is on Operation Saratoga. (USA)

American Allies Get Tough, Among Air Shorten Tet Truce Victims

BANGKOK (AP) — An American photographer and his Swedish girl assistant were among six people killed Sunday when a light plane crashed after colliding with a jet airliner 60 miles from Bangkok, an airline official said Sunday night.

The photographer was identified as C. R. Peterson, Los Angeles.

His assistant was Ing Marie Pilehag, of Sweden.

Promise Nouyen Van Loc an-

SAIGON (AP) — South Vietnam and her allies, in a toughening stand, have decided to shorten the Tet (Vietnamese Lunar New Year) cease-fire next week to 36 hours, making it the shortest Allied Tet truce ever.

The foreign ministry had announced last Dec. 15 that South Vietnam had decided "in principle" to observe a 48-hour Tet truce. The Viet Cong have announced a seven-day truce at Tet.

from the White House. The five other allies also agreed.

"It's in keeping with the principle that you give the enemy as little opportunity to infiltrate men and arms into South Vietnam as possible," the source said.

The abbreviated Allied truce will run from 6 p.m. Jan. 29 to 6 a.m. on the 31st. The Tet truce in 1967 was 96 hours.

The Viet Cong truce begins at 1 a.m. Jan. 27 and ends at 1 a.m. Feb. 3.

Jets Pound Power Plant

SAIGON (S&S) — U.S. jets struck the Hon Gai thermal power plant, Cao Nung railroad siding, and the Yen Bai airfield Saturday.

U.S. Army helicopter gunners killed 19 Reds in scattered actions throughout South Vietnam Saturday. They also destroyed nine enemy fortifications and seven sampans.

Vietnamese Air Force pilots flew 82 sorties Saturday, destroying or damaging 82 fortifications as well as 30 bunkers and four enemy sampans.

Hanoi Raps LBJ Formula

TOKYO (AP) — North Vietnam said Sunday the "San Antonio formula" suggested by President Johnson for peace in Vietnam "constitutes very insolent conditions."

The statement — tantamount to a rejection by Hanoi — was made by the official North Vietnamese daily Nhan Dan in the Communist nation's first reaction to Johnson's State-of-the-Union address delivered Wednesday.

In the address, Johnson said he believed peace talks should follow a formula advanced in San Antonio last September.

The formula says:

—U.S. bombing of North Vietnam would stop if talks would take place promptly and "with reasonable hopes they would be productive."

The Communists must not take advantage of the U.S. actions, possibly to reinforce their forces with men or supplies.

Commented Nhan Dan: "The so-called 'San Antonio formula' is but an habitual trick of the United States to put on the same footing the aggressor and the victim of aggression, and to force the Vietnamese people to give up struggling in face of continued American aggression.

"This constitutes very insolent conditions which, along with the American build-up in South Vietnam and the stepped-up U.S. air raids over Haiphong, Hanoi, the provincial capital of Lang Son, and many other thickly populated areas in North Vietnam, has further exposed the extremely bellicose nature of the U.S. imperialists."