

Red Order of the Day: 'Tighten Belts'

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SAIGON — Orders have gone down to enemy forces operating in the provinces of III Military Region to conserve ammunition and become self-sufficient, informed military sources revealed Monday.

Faced with increasing logistical problems, Viet Cong and NVA soldiers in the provinces around

Saigon can expect to receive only weapons and ammunition, one source said. Items such as food and clothing must be obtained locally.

Strict limitations were placed on ammunition, primarily artillery rounds, the sources explained.

Thus far, no appreciable increase in enemy terrorist activities designed to attain self-suffi-

ciency has been observed, they said.

Since the end of U.S. ground participation in Cambodia, enemy initiated attacks against allied forces have declined steadily. As of Oct. 24, 113 attacks were reported during October compared with 306 in July, 266 in August and 229 in September, the sources said.

Coinciding with the decline in

enemy activity, the monthly statistics on the number of enemy eliminated from NVA and VC ranks has also dipped. Through Oct. 24 the Communists had lost 926 men, while the total for July was 2,092, August 1,382, and 1,319 for September. These figures include prisoners of war and government ralliers as well as enemy killed in action, the sources said.

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