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Troops of a joint South Vietnamese-Cambodian task force build a pontoon bridge across a river near Highway 7, about 33 miles southeast of Phnom Penh, where Communists had destroyed a bridge. The bridge materials were flown from Saigon on two U.S. Air Force C130s. (UPI)

Tracks Spotted

11/22/70

Red Tanks in Cambodia?

SAIGON (UPI) — The communists have hidden Soviet-built T34 tanks in dense forests of northeastern Cambodia for possible use against South Vietnamese armored units operating across the border, field commanders said Friday.

Maj. Gen. Ngo Dzu, commander of government troops in the Central Highlands, said intelligence reports indicated as many as 15 of the tanks were positioned in the Bo Kheo for-

ests 200 miles northeast of Phnom Penh and 12 miles west of the border.

Dzu and other senior officers said that fresh markings from tank tracks were found and what appeared to be a parking area for six tanks with gasoline cannisters and spare parts hidden underground.

South Vietnamese ground troops reported hearing the rumbling of tanks in the thick

forests on Tuesday and Wednesday nights and government helicopter pilots said they spotted lights in the woods near Highway 19.

Officers said if the tanks were introduced into the Indochina conflict they would be used against South Vietnamese armored personnel carriers being used by elements of a 6,000-man task force which crossed the border last Monday in a two-pronged operation.