

W
file subj.
date sub-cat.
6/73

59

Red Truce Breaks Hit Record Low

SAIGON (UPI) ^{6/25/73} Alleged Communist truce violations hit a new low of 51 Saturday for the five-month cease-fire but fighting moved to within six miles of here, the South Vietnamese command said.

Reported Communist violations have been dropping for five days. The 51 reported for the 24 hours ending at noon Saturday were the fewest since the Jan. 28 cease-fire took effect. The previous low was 53 May 24.

The Saigon command said Communist forces attacked a militia unit Friday night six miles northwest of here. It said three Communists were killed, with no militia casualties.

On the diplomatic front, Saigon's delegation to the Paris talks with the Viet Cong, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Luu Vien, left for Paris Saturday with new instructions from President Nguyen Van Thieu, government sources said.

Vien had been here 10 days for consultation with Thieu and other government officials. The talks with the Viet Cong on South Vietnam's political future are scheduled to resume Thursday at the Paris suburb of La Celle St. Cloud.

The Viet Cong accused the Saigon command Saturday of wholesale truce violations since the Paris communique, reaffirming the cease-fire, went into effect June 15.

"A press officer for the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government charged that in the week starting June 15, "the Saigon side has more than 300 times conducted bombardments and land-grabbing operations (ground attacks) against the pro-controlled areas."

The Saigon figure for Communist violations for the same period is 541, compared to 1,567 violations reported in the first week of the Jan. 28 cease-fire.