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S. Viets Kill 21 NVA

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Fighting Heavy in Quang Duc

SAIGON (AP) — A series of attacks and counterattacks were reported Friday in Quang Duc Province along the Cambodian frontier as government and North Vietnamese forces battled around three outposts that fell to the Communists last week.

A battalion of government infantry Thursday ran into rocket grenade and smallarms fire five miles south of Bu Prang, one of the captured outposts, while a second infantry element came under attack four miles to the rear, the Saigon command announced.

Both government units launched counterattacks and in five hours of sharp fighting killed 21 North Vietnamese for the loss of one killed and three wounded, according to the Saigon account.

As the fighting near Bu Prang broke off, it flared up around the Dak Song road junction 20 miles to the northwest.

A North Vietnamese artillery barrage heralded a determined ground attack against government militia and armored cavalry units one mile north of the junction.

The attack was beaten off, said a government communique, but four government soldiers were killed, 19 wounded and one reported missing in the action. North Vietnamese casualties were put at five killed.

Further north in the central highlands region, North Vietnamese and Viet Cong gunners

pumped 250 mortar and 105 mm artillery rounds into a government position some 14 miles southwest of Pleiku City, then followed it with a ground assault.

The Saigon command said initial reports indicate eight government soldiers were killed and 11 wounded in the two clashes while Communist losses were at least six killed.

Elsewhere in South Vietnam fighting remained at a low level with only 58 Communist cease-fire violations being reported during the 24 hours ending at 6 a.m. Friday. On Wednesday, the 53 alleged violations was the lowest number since July 10.