

# VC Paper Lists No. 1 Problem: Fear

(S&S Vietnam Bureau)

SAIGON — Morale problems facing Viet Cong military forces are listed and discussed in a captured document released Monday.

Fear of combat hardships and protracted warfare are among the shortcomings given. The document is a directive issued Jan. 20, 1967, by the political staff department of the "South Vietnam liberation army." It orders an intensive political retraining course for "all cadres and troops" of the Viet Cong.

"Passive rightism" should be controlled, the directive says, and the Viet Cong soldier should "chase from his mind the illusion of peace."

Correction is demanded of failings which include "escapism and demoralization . . . lack of determination to seek and fight the enemy . . . weariness and the inclination to enjoy some rest . . . lack of a sense of responsibility . . . lack of a sense of discipline."

Frictions have appeared in relations between officers and men, the directive says, and

"loss of revolutionary pride" has been noted. The document also cautions against bribery and other forms of dishonesty.

To check such undesirable tendencies, the directive prescribes a course combining study, self-criticism and emulation of "revolutionary heroes."

Among the "heroes" named is Nguyen Van Be, currently a prisoner of war in the custody of the government of Vietnam, but reputed by Viet Cong propagandists to have sacrificed his life for the insurgency.

The directive also recom-

mends an exercise in fasting to accustom troops to hardship. "Try to endure several days without food during operations, in atrocious combat conditions, against superior numbers," the Viet Cong soldiers are told.

The document giving these orders was captured Sept. 7 by a unit of the 5th U.S. Special Forces Group in Tay Ninh Province. It was distributed among Viet Cong units before a public call for 1967 political re-education was issued by "liberation radio" last April 29.

## Chaplain Decorated

SAIGON (AP) — A U.S. Army chaplain has been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action, military spokesmen reported Monday.

Chaplain (Capt.) Charles T. Clanton, 32, received the nation's third highest award for his actions during a fire fight east of Saigon last June.

He was with a convoy of armored personnel carriers and the citation said "Chaplain Clanton, in total, selfless disregard for his own safety, moved from vehicle to vehicle, rendering physical and spiritual comfort to the wounded."

His comment: "I was just doing what I had to do."

## Brigade Beefs Up DMZ Area

SAIGON (AP) — Anticipating renewed attacks from North Vietnam, the U.S. command has dispatched an Army brigade into the invasion-prone northern sector of South Vietnam, boosting American manpower there to around 100,000 troops, it was disclosed Monday.

At the same time, U.S. intelligence reports showed a buildup of forces on the Communist side. The reports put Communist strength at 85,000 men in the northern area and above the Demilitarized Zone on the North-South border. Of these, 46,000 men, including 16,000 North Vietnamese, are reported inside the five northern provinces, called the 1st Corps area. Another buildup has increased Communist strength in and above the DMZ from 35,000 men to 39,000, the reports indicated.

The dispatch of a 4,000-man brigade of the U.S. 1st Air Cav. Div. to the 1st Corps area will permit the transfer of about 1,500 Marines to the area around Con Thien 2½ miles below the DMZ.

The Communists shelled Con Thien continuously for a month before quitting last week and withdrawing, apparently crippled by heavy American air attacks.

While the area is relatively quiet now, U.S. commanders expect attacks on the Con Thien area to resume with renewed ferocity. Con Thien is considered important because its high vantage point overlooks possible routes.

## 60 Reds Die In Operation

(S&S Vietnam Bureau)

SAIGON — A brigade of the 1st Air Cav. Div. dispatched to the northernmost 1st Corps area that ends near the DMZ, killed 20 Reds in newly launched Operation Wallowa.

Two members of the 3rd Brigade were wounded; the only U.S. casualties. Contact was light, a spokesman said. Army troops were first deployed to the area April 1.

In the same area, a company of the 101st Airborne Brigade killed 60 Reds in heavy contact with a well-armed NVA unit, 25 miles west of Tan Ky.

The enemy company followed a mortar barrage with a two-pronged assault that cut off one Screaming Eagle platoon. Other elements of the 101st broke through in bloody fighting to rescue the surrounded platoon.



## Carrying the Load in Vietnam

Burdened with an M-60 machine gun and ammo, three tired and sweaty American soldiers move through a bombed-out woods in the Cay Giep

Mountains Southeast of Bong Son. They are members of the 1st Bn, 5th Cav., 1st Air Cav. Div. on Operation Pershing, which has killed more than 3,000 enemy soldiers since February. (USA)

## Reds Plan DMZ Attack: N. Viet

SAIGON (UPI) — A defecting North Vietnamese Army officer was quoted Monday as reporting that the Communists are still planning a large-scale attack on U.S. Marines just south of the Demilitarized Zone.

At the same time, the Marine officer who commanded the Con Thien border post for a month during the height of the Communist artillery siege said the outpost still was surrounded on three sides by North Vietnamese

troops, huddling close to it "to escape the B52 raids."

"I can take you out there right now and guarantee you'll run into North Vietnamese 'within 300 yards to the west, east or north,'" Lt. Col. Gordon Cook said.

"They're dug in the freelines and valleys around Con Thien," said Cook, who relinquished command of Con Thien two days ago. "The NVA are hugging Con Thien to escape the B52 raids,

and they're damn smart."

"We sent patrols out the day we arrived and the day we left, and the NVA were still there."

Vietnam Press, the government news agency, said a North Vietnamese official who defected to the government side last week at Gio Linh, site of another Marine border outpost, said three divisions — about 35,000 men — were concentrated in the northern half of the DMZ to prepare for a decisive battle.

## Jets Bomb Haiphong Airfields

(S&S Vietnam Bureau)

SAIGON — The Cat Bi airfield, four miles southeast of Haiphong, was struck for the first time Sunday by carrier-based Navy pilots from the Constellation.

Although no enemy aircraft were sighted on the ground during the attack, Cat Bi's more than 7,000-foot runways are known to have MIG capability.

Pilots reported seeing secondary explosions during the attack and post-strike photos showed major damage to runway and parking areas, plus destruction of several administration and maintenance buildings.

Navy pilots again struck the Kien An airfield, six miles southwest of Haiphong Sunday. Post strike photos confirmed reports that A4 and F8 pilots from the Riskany heavily cratered the center runway. Photos also showed direct hits had been made on several runways at Kien An.

Pilots from the Constellation, firing 2.75-inch rockets, also destroyed one locomotive and two boxcars while damaging a second locomotive during their attack 30 miles north-northwest of Thanh Hoa.

Major blows were also inflicted by Air Force pilots Sunday as they demolished the western span of the Cao Bang highway bridge, 114 miles north-northeast of Hanoi.

## New Copters Support Ground Troops

SAIGON (AP) — A new U.S. Army helicopter designed exclusively for ground support in the Vietnam war was used for the first time Sunday on a combat operation, the Army announced Monday.

Two of the new Huey Cobra gunships flew armed escort for troop-carrying helicopters near Saigon.

The Cobra is a new version of the Army Huey. The new model can carry up to 1,525 pounds of armament for 205 hours.

The new helicopter weighs 5,510 pounds empty. Its gross weight is 9,500 pounds including armor, chin turret and sighting system. Maximum dive speed is 190 knots.

The helicopter's seating, with the pilot in the rear seat and the gunner up front, allows equal visibility for both crewmen.



THE HUEY COBRA GROUND SUPPORT HELICOPTER.

(S&S)