

Allies Ready for Reds: Abrams

SAIGON (AP)—Gen. Creighton W. Abrams said Friday allied forces are "well prepared" for any Communist attack on Saigon.

The commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam said thousands of infantrymen backed by an armada of warplanes and gunboats are trying to spoil a threatened major attack on the capital.

Declining to predict when the Communist command might launch its long anticipated third offensive, Abrams said:

"That's like betting on horse races. Almost any prediction I'd make I could be wrong. It's pretty risky business. Really, I tell you, it doesn't make much difference to us. We're already well prepared and we're trying to see if we can't postpone it

BEARCAT, Vietnam (S&S)—The Vietnamese Presidential Unit Citation was presented to the men of the 9th Inf. Div. Friday during a ceremony celebrating the unit's 50th anniversary. Commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, and leaders of allied commands in Vietnam watched as Lt. Gen. Le Nguyen Khang, III Corps commander, placed the citation streamer on the division flag. Gen. Khang also presented Maj. Gen. Julian J. Ewell with the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

(the attack)."

Asked for how long, he replied, "Indefinitely."

Abrams talked briefly to newsmen at Beaufort, 20 miles north-east of Saigon, after taking part in a colorful ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the U.S. 9th Inf. Div.

Elements of the division, which has its headquarters at Beaufort, are protecting Saigon's southern flank.

Abrams was asked if he

thought the Communist command might change its strategy and, instead of attacking Saigon, strike at outlying provinces.

"I don't know," he said. "There are a lot of alternatives that are open to them."

Abrams conceded that despite the massive allied manpower the Viet Cong have been hard to find. When asked why, he replied:

"Because that's what he's doing. He's trying to make him-

self hard to find. He's devoting all his energy to it and there's lots of country out there."

Meanwhile, allied troops patrolling the fringes of Saigon turned up four more weapons caches in areas ranging from three to seven miles southwest of the capital.

In downtown Saigon, police captured two Viet Cong, seized two AK50 assault rifles, seven Viet Cong flags and 10 pounds of leaflets during a house-to-house search.

Far the north, 300 miles above Saigon, elements of the U.S. 11th Light Inf. Brigade found another Communist cache which contained four 120 mm mortars, 75 bicycles with weapons carriers and 20,000 rounds of small arms ammunition.

Pilots Not Freed as Expected

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP)—The three American pilots released by North Vietnam on Thursday did not arrive in Vientiane as expected Friday.

The pilots—Maj. James Frederick Low, 33, of San Antonio, Calif., or Milledale, Fla., who was shot down Dec. 16, 1967; Maj. Fred Neale Thompson, 32, of Taylor, N.C., or Big Springs, Tex., who was captured last March 20; and Capt. Joe Victor Carpenter, 37, of Victorville, Calif., who was captured Feb. 15—were scheduled to arrive aboard an International Control Commission (ICC) plane Friday night.

The pilots were to have been escorted by three members of an American peace delegation who flew to Hanoi from Vientiane July 12 aboard the regular weekly plane of the ICC.

The French-piloted ICC plane is the only scheduled air service out of North Vietnam that does not pass through Communist China.

The failure of the pilots to arrive in Vientiane suggested that North Vietnam may fly the pilots to Europe, perhaps Paris.

The U.S. ambassador to Laos, William Sullivan, was at the airport Friday night to meet the plane.

But the French captain announced that neither the pilots nor the peace delegation were aboard. Sullivan left the airport.

Asks Hanoi To Accept Sick POWs

SAIGON (AP)—South Vietnam renewed an appeal Friday to Hanoi to accept 40 sick and wounded North Vietnamese prisoners of war the government says it wants to release.

Before the Communist Lunar New Year attacks last February, the government asked the International Red Cross to inform Hanoi that it was ready to hand over the prisoners. The government says it has not received a reply from Hanoi.

A communique from the Foreign Affairs Ministry said Friday that the government "denounces before international and domestic opinion the inhumanity of North Vietnam, which does not care about the men it sent to South Vietnam to carry out its aggression."

Apparently, to accept the prisoners would be an admission by North Vietnam that it has men fighting in the south.



A U.S. Army Chinook copter carries a "sick" Huey back to the repair hangars at Lat Khe, base camp of the 1st Inf. Div. It was not known what disabled the Huey. (S&S)

ROK Drive Kills 56 Reds

SAIGON (S&S)—South Korean Marines Thursday finished a four-day operation north of Dien Bien in central South Vietnam and reported a total of 56 enemy soldiers killed. ROK casualties were reported light.

Troops of the 2nd Marine Brigade took part in the fighting in the sweep, dubbed Operation Dragon Palace-3.

Nine enemy were killed in scattered action along the central coast by Korean infantrymen. They also captured three individual weapons and seven gas masks.

Take Hard Line in Talks With LBJ, Thieu Told

SAIGON (AP)—South Vietnam's House of Representatives has recommended that President Nguyen Van Thieu take a hard line in his talks with President Johnson at Honolulu on how to deal with the Communists.

The House recommendations, reported Friday by the official Vietnam press, urged Thieu to:

- Reject as unacceptable a coalition with the Communists,
- Impress on the American President that if the Paris peace talks proceed beyond the present preliminaries, that the South Vietnamese Government must play the key negotiating role for the allies. And that any agreement, including the complete cessation of bombing of the north must meet with Saigon government approval.

The legislative recommendations, which are an binding on Thieu, also urged the U.S. to suspend the Paris talks if the Communists renew their mortar and rocket attacks against South Vietnam's cities or if they increase the tempo of infiltration of men and arms into the south.

It also urged that the allies set a deadline at the talks to prevent Hanoi from taking advantage of the talks to build up its forces.

Jets Ignite 171 Fires

585 Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON—American fighter-bombers raked the southern Panhandle of North Vietnam Thursday while B52s remained south of the Demilitarized Zone for the first time in four days.

The jet pilots reported starting 171 sustained fires and seven petroleum fires and causing 31 secondary explosions as they blasted storage areas and supply lines in 112 raids over the Panhandle.

In South Vietnam, the B52s raked the southern Panhandle of North Vietnam Thursday while B52s remained south of the Demilitarized Zone for the first time in four days.

Air Force F4 Phantom's left 55 fires burning at a military storage complex near Vinh, southeast of Dong Hoi. The crews were from the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing.

Navy A4 Skyhawks blasted two storage areas and cargo transfer points near Vinh, touching off 18 fires that sent black smoke rising to more than 1,500 feet at one of the sites. In the other, 20 fires were snuffed by the jets' 500 and 750-pound bombs.

Casualties

WASHINGTON (S&S)—The Defense Department has announced the following casualties in connection with the conflict in Vietnam.

KILLED IN ACTION

- Army
 Cpl. Roy R. Kandiaks, Emerson, Ark.
 SP4 Hugh L. Hurlingham, Genoa, Ark.
 Cpl. Frederick R. Vint, Whittier, Calif.
 Pfc. Charles Cook, Jr., San Francisco, Calif.
 Pfc. Douglas Scott, Lihou, Ga.
 SP4 Stephen L. Wright, Fort Worth, Ga.
 Sp5 William O. Trojillo, Fort Knox, Ky.
 Cpl. Daniel L. Dwyer, Shreveport, N.C.
 Sp5 Donald E. Bear, Amarok, Okla.
 SP5 John R. Stocum, Tulsa, Okla.

NAVY

HN Leslie W. Royall III, Roseville, Calif.

MARINE CORPS

- 1st Lt. John P. Stogdole, Genoa, Calif.
 1st Lt. Michael E. Thomas, Genoa, Calif.
 1st Lt. James A. Williams, Bishop, Calif.
 1st Lt. Gerald L. Walton, Morrow, Ga.
 Cpl. John D. Delhouse, Honolulu, Hawaii.
 Cpl. William C. Koon, Joliet, Ill.
 Pvt. Leroy G. East, Saint Louis, Ill.
 Cpl. Richard S. Brown, South Fort Decatur, Tenn.

ARMY

- 1st Lt. Howard C. Williams, Gucydon, La.
 Pfc. Raymond Bolan, Saint Louis, Mo.
 Pfc. Louis G. Healy, Dallas, Mont.
 Sp5 Harley R. Roberts, Canton, N.Y.
 2d Lt. Henry A. Ledford, Alexandria, Va.
 1st Lt. William A. Brockhoff, Centerville, Wash.

DIED OF WOUNDS

- 1st Lt. William A. Hansen, Alameda, Calif.
 1st Lt. Warren Mover Jr., Blandford, Pa.
 1st Lt. Larry L. Thordson, Spanish Fork, Utah.

MISSING TO DEAD—HOSTILE

- Army
 Sp5 Juan M. Jilberto, San Antonio, Tex.
 Sp5 Edward L. Houston, Lynchburg, Va.

MISSING IN ACTION

- Army
 SP4 Paulick J. Scrammitto.
 Pfc. James H. Nevel.
 Pfc. Gray D. Tompkins.

DIED NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION

- Army
 SP4 Louis L. Clanton, Collinsville, Ala.
 Cpl. George Vander Dussen, Arden, Calif.
 Pfc. Gerald L. Lutz, Clark, Calif.
 1st Lt. Robert L. Miller, Richmond, Wash.

NAVY

AO3 Dennis W. Allen, Milford, Ill.

MARINE CORPS

GySgt. Linwood J. C. Richards, Decatur, S.C.

CORRECTIONS

- Cpl. Joseph C. Doyle, USA, Chicago status from killed in action to died as a result of hostile action.
 Cpl. Claude D. Pratt, USA, Chicago status from killed in action to died as a result of hostile action.

Ex-Candidate Moved To Prison in Saigon

SAIGON (AP)—Truong Dinh Bui, the runner-up in the South Vietnamese presidential election last fall, has been moved to Saigon's Chi Hoa prison after being held for 10 weeks of questioning at National Police Headquarters, his family said Friday.

The 51-year-old lawyer, who ran second to President Nguyen Van Thieu, was arrested last

May 1 after newspapers reported he had urged his government to seek peace by talking with the Viet Cong's National Liberation Front (NLF).

He was charged, but not yet tried, "for action harmful to the anti-communist spirit of the people and the Army of Vietnam."

Bui's son, Phillip, said his father had not urged talks with the Communists but rather with non-Communist elements of the NLF.