

900 Wounded, Killed in Week Of Red Terror

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON—The Viet Cong widened their terror campaign in election eve attacks Saturday, bringing civilian casualties to nearly 900 in the week before the voting.

More bloodshed was forecast as Communist terrorists—intent on wrecking the national election—were expected to step up attacks Sunday.

In the latest reported incident, four persons were killed and eight wounded when a Viet Cong band hit a military dependents' camp and government posts in Tam Ky, south of Da Nang.

Grenade attacks continued in Saigon, which had been relatively free from terrorist incidents until a few weeks ago.

South Vietnamese authorities said terrorists Friday tossed grenades into a police checkpoint, a polling place and a Chamber of Commerce. Six persons, including three policemen, were wounded.

Three other civilians were wounded late Friday when a terrorist threw a grenade into the house of a Vietnamese Air Force pilot just outside Saigon.

The capital was under heavy guard Saturday as Vietnamese and American policemen tightened security. U.S. soldiers and most American civilians were ordered off the streets from Saturday night to Monday morning.

U.S. sources said terrorist attacks killed 190 civilians in the seven days before the election. At least 426 were wounded and 237 kidnaped.

Casualties for August—549 killed, 900 wounded and 579 kidnaped—were nearly five times the losses a year ago.

VC Toss Grenades

SAIGON (AP)—A grenade exploded late Saturday outside the Saigon residence of two American generals, the second in 24 hours tossed at the house.

First reports said the blast occurred in the street and a Vietnamese civilian was injured.

A Vietnamese woman reportedly was seized as a suspect in the incident.

The incident occurred outside the quarters of Brig. Gen. William Sible, chief of the Public Information Division in Gen. William C. Westmoreland's military command. Sible shares the residence with Brig. Gen. Franklin Davis, chief of personnel in Westmoreland's headquarters.

No Americans were reported hurt.

Shortly before midnight Friday, a grenade was thrown at the house but failed to explode.

Davis is in the United States attending the funeral of his son, who was killed in action in Vietnam.

Reds Kill 4 Children

SAIGON (S&S)—Four Vietnamese children were killed Friday when one of them pulled a string that triggered a Viet Cong booby trap as they were swimming in the Bong Son River on the central coast. A fifth child was seriously wounded.

6 Pacific Stars & Stripes Monday, Sept. 4, 1967

Humphrey Lauds Vote

SAIGON (AP)—Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey said in a letter made public Saturday that South Vietnam's elections "are impressive evidence of the desire of the people of Vietnam to achieve representative self-government."

"This desire of the Vietnamese people to build democratic self-government while at the same time having to fight so bitterly to defend it inspires the admiration of people in many parts of the world," Humphrey wrote.

His letter was in reply to one sent to him by Premier Nguyen Cao Ky defending the government against accusations of dishonesty in the elections.

38 U.S. Planes Downed in August

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SAIGON—Communist gunners and MIG interceptors downed a record-tying 38 U.S. warplanes over North Vietnam during August, the U.S. command announced Saturday.

The same number of planes were downed in May of this year.

The command also announced during the month the loss of 42 U.S. pilots over the North.

U.S. pilots flew 119 missions over North Vietnam Friday.

Navy F8 Crusader pilots reported leaving the Chau Lam highway bridge, 24 miles south-

east of Vinh "in the water after blasting it with 1,000-pound bombs."

Other Navy pilots struck the Vinh POL storage area seven miles northwest of the city and the nearby Vinh army barracks. Heavy smoke covering the area prevented a damage report.

Air Force pilots destroyed a total of 28 trucks near the Ma Gia Pass.

Air Force B52s continued to blast Communist troops and gun positions in the DMZ with three raids Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.



Resupply Copter Makes Big Splash

A huge Chinook helicopter sets down a trailer-tank of water with a splash and scatters a cargo net of supplies on an embankment on a resupply mission to a sandbagged artillery outpost

carved into a mountainside five miles northeast of Duc Pho. The post is manned by elements of the 3rd Brigade, 4th Inf. Div.

(AP Radiophoto)

High Viet Official to Quit; Too Much Suspicion, He Says

SAIGON (UPI)—Nguyen Van Tuong says this is his last election. He's organized five of them for South Vietnam in the past 2½ years.

Tuong, a law professor, is the special commissioner for administration, one of the country's top civil servants.

He organized elections for municipal councils (May, 1965), the constitutional assembly election (Sept., 1966), village and hamlet election (April-June, 1967) and now Sunday's elections for a president, vice president and senate.

"I'm tired," said Tuong. "It's not so much the work that gets you down as the criticism and suspicion you encounter in this job. So many people suspect the election will be rigged although we are doing everything possible to make it honest."

"We had to distribute 1,000 tons of ballots and we couldn't land planes in some provinces because of bad weather conditions. We had to fly to one province four times in a row before we could land there," he said.

"The Diem regime had a lot of rigged elections and the gov-

ernments after that broke too many promises. Suspicion is the fruit of those past regimes," the commissioner said.

"We Vietnamese lack a lot of things but one thing we have plenty of is doubt and skepticism."

Some of the civilian opponents of Chief of State Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu in the presidential race charged that the government distributed two voting cards to soldiers so that they could vote twice and suggested that "ghost voters" might have

been registered. Tuong disputed them.

"There will be no voting twice," said Tuong. "There will be stiff penalties for anyone trying to do it, and there will be no ghost voters. It's going to be very difficult to cheat in this election, and the provisional National Assembly, which is an elected body representing the people, will have the final say on the results."

"You can tell it's a free election because of the number of candidates running," he said.

Red Rockets Hit Da Nang

SAIGON (UPI)—Viet Cong guerrillas rocketed Da Nang AB and nearby Marine positions early Saturday.

The Communists slammed 140mm rockets into one section of the sprawling air base before dawn, damaging seven cargo planes. Four Americans were wounded.

At about the same time, units of the Marine 4th Logistic Command five miles away were hit with rockets. One Marine was killed and 38 wounded, officials said. The rockets hit shambles where Marines were sleeping.

Viet Poll Watchers Impressed

SAIGON (UPI)—President Johnson's Vietnam election observers Saturday met the leading presidential and vice presidential candidates, Chief of State Nguyen Van Thieu and Premier Nguyen Cao Ky.

New Jersey Gov. Richard J. Hughes told Ky, "Yesterday I saw 150 villagers meeting in a hall to learn about the electoral process. In New Jersey, we would be hard put to find even 10."

Ky told Whitney Young Jr., executive director of the Urban League, of the lot of the Vietnamese politician.

"All I want to do is to go back to being a pilot and a farmer, but no one will believe me," he said. "As a fighter you are loved and respected; as a politician you are hated. I have received so much criticism in this campaign."

Young replied that he had encountered the same kind of

criticism, but that it sometimes made one feel stronger.

Said Ky: "Sometimes it is very hard. My wife feels the same way as I do. I am a fighting man."

Oregon Gov. Thomas McCadden told Ky he was impressed with the "great serenity and great sense of humor" of the Vietnamese people in spite of the war and its hardships.

"Humor and hope," said Ky, "are perhaps our greatest assets."