

Attack on Udorn Seen Plot to Kill Released Pilots

BANGKOK (AP) — Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn said Monday the attack two days ago on Udorn Air Base was a Communist attempt to kill three American pilots who were to have been released by Hanoi that night.

A Thai security guard and two attackers were killed in the raids. Four Americans were wounded.

Thanom said the killing of the pilots would have embarrassed Thailand and the U.S.

Thanom, speaking at his weekly press conference said the main target of the attackers was a U.S. Air Force C141 Starlifter parked on the end of the runway.

The Starlifter, fitted out as a medical evacuation aircraft, was awaiting the arrival of the three released pilots from Vientiane where they had been scheduled to land at 10:15 p.m. after a flight from Hanoi.

The attack on Udorn, about 35 miles from Vientiane, began at 10:30 p.m.

The pilots, Maj. Fred N. Thompson, Maj. James F. Low, and Capt. Joe V. Carpenter did not arrive in Vientiane as scheduled.

If they had arrived and decided to fly to Udorn, they might have been aboard the C-141 when the Communists attacked with automatic weapons and grenades. Presumably the pilots are still in North Vietnam.

Although they have never publicly said so, the North Vietnamese are believed to have been angered when the first three pilots released in February were flown directly to Udorn from Vientiane.

The North Vietnamese reportedly wanted the publicity that would have resulted had the airmen flown home by commercial airliner.

In his hour-long conference Monday, Thanom said one of the two attackers killed at Udorn Friday had been identified as a Vietnamese, age 27. The other was a Thai, age 43, who was carrying a forged identity card.

Thanom said that as a result of the attack on Udorn, he had ordered all bases in Thailand on full alert as a precaution against further raids by Communists.

A preparedness plan drawn up three months ago for the defense of the airbases and other strategic installations would be put into effect.

Thai police would institute strict security checks in a seven-mile radius of the base.

Believe Pilots Still Captive

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department said Monday that three American pilots reportedly released by North Vietnam are assumed to still be in that country. Their exact whereabouts is unknown.

State Department Press Officer Robert J. McCloskey, meanwhile, declined to comment on a statement by Thailand's Prime Minister Thanom Kittikachorn that a Communist attempt to kill the three pilots had been staged at the Udorn Air Base Saturday.



U.S. troops charge out of their helicopters as they make a sweep about 75 miles southwest of Saigon near the Cambodian border.

Allied forces have intensified patrols and troop movements along suspected infiltration routes leading toward Saigon. (AP)

Gen. Palmer Sworn in

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gen. Bruce Palmer, a former deputy commander in Vietnam, got his fourth star and was sworn in as the Army's No. 2 man in ceremonies Monday at the Pentagon.

Gen. William C. Westmoreland, former U.S. commander in Vietnam and now chief of staff looked on as the Austin, Tex., native took the oath as his vice chief of staff.

Palmer was deputy commanding general of the Army in Vietnam until he was picked to return to Washington as part of the Westmoreland team in the Pentagon.

Westmoreland and Mrs. Palmer helped pin on the fourth star just before Palmer took the oath from Maj. Gen. Kenneth G. Wickham, Army adjutant general.

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Yoo Commands White Horse Div.

NIH HUA, Vietnam (S&S) — Maj. Gen. Chang Hun Yoo has succeeded Maj. Gen. Hyun Sik Bak as commanding general of the 8th ROK Inf. Div. (White Horse) here.

Bak, who had commanded the White Horse Div. since last July, will return to Korea as deputy commandant of the National War College.

Thais Greeted at Pier

2nd Panther Unit Arrives

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON — The second 1,500-man contingent of the Royal Thai Army's Black Panther Div., including the division commander and headquarters unit, arrived Monday in Vietnam.

The division, numbering about 12,000 men, is replacing the Queen's Cobras Regt., a unit of about 1,400, and will be based at Bearcat, current home of the U.S. 9th Inf. Div. Allied military officials say the Thais will eventually take over responsibility for areas now covered by U.S. troops.

The Panthers debarked from the U.S. transport ship Okinawa

at the Newport docking area just east of Saigon, headed by Maj. Gen. Tha aee Demrangsd. On hand to meet them were Thai Ambassador Bantha Klintra, Lt. Gen. Frank T. Mildren, deputy commander of the U.S. Army in Vietnam, and Maj. Gen. Chalard Hirun Siri, commander of Thailand forces in Vietnam. The official welcome was given by Lt. Gen. T.N. Tam, ARVN commander of II Field Force.

"We have replaced a regiment with a division here for the sake of freedom in our part of the world," Hirun Siri said as

the Thai troops filed down the gangplank. "We want to do all we can to speed the end of this war."

Asked about the prospective role of the Black Panthers in the war, Mildren said there were as yet no definite operations planned for them.

"They will go through the same training and acclimation period we give to American troops arriving in Vietnam," he said.

The division is expected to be at full strength by the end of this year. They will operate under II Field Force.

20 B52 Raids in 2 Days Along Cambodian Border

S&S Vietnam Bureau

SAIGON—Allied pressure on enemy units in Tay Ninh and Binh Long provinces, due north of Saigon on the Cambodian border grew Sunday and Monday with 10 more B52 raids and the discovery of huge rice cache.

Vietnam Casualties

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

KILLED IN ACTION

Army

SP4 William L. Shrum, Phoenix, Ariz.
SP4 Valentine Tucker, Pine Bluff, Ark.
Sgt. Harry L. Boyle, Alameda, Calif.
Sgt. Jesus E. Chavez Jr., Phoenix, Ariz.

SP4 Albert Gonzalez, Hollister, Calif.

SP4 Luther J. Ross Jr., Wilmington, Del.

SP4 John E. Grosson, Melbourne, Fla.

SP4 Eugene F. Davis, Chicago, Ill.

SP4 Marc G. Van Dusen, Carlisle, La.

SP4 Willard J. Bileta Jr., Broussard, La.

SP5 Robert W. Parent, Wellington, Mass.

SP5 David M. Drob, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

SP5 Roger D. Shaffer, Baroda, Mich.

SP5 Ronald D. Anderson, Dimondale, Mich.

SP4 Earl F. Seabloom, Ishpeming, Mich.

Sgt. Robert L. Graham, Roswell, N.M.

Sgt. George A. Cavalorato, New York

Cpt. Robert C. Wilcox, Spring Valley, N.Y.

Cpt. Ronald C. Ross, Girdwood, Okla.

Sgt. Jerry R. Wilkko, Ado, Ohio.

Cpl. Arthur M. Flores, Austin, Tex.

Cpl. William C. Moore, Independence, Va.

Cpl. William S. Hukonson Jr., Rhine-

lander, Wis.

Navy

BU2 Gregory P. Hessey, Grants, N.M.

Marine Corps

Pfc. James R. Kelm, Russellville, Ark.

Pfc. Christopher Garcia, Oceanside, Calif.

The bombers strikes Sunday and Monday raised the score to 20 raids in 48 hours on the largely inaccessible jungle and the projected enemy buildup.

In the opinion of military observers in the area, the 9th NVA Div. is building up for

another large drive such as the attacks on Loc Ninh in November of last year.

American 1st Inf. Div. troops combed Phuoc Long Province turned up a cache containing 70 tons of polished rice near the Cambodian border. The find occurred in the same area where division troops discovered 84 tons of rice July 28.

With the rice, five 100-gallon cans of cooking oil, 200 cans of tinned meat, 2.5 gallons of fish sauce, 200 three-gallon cans of dehydrated food and 70 bicycles were taken.

Meanwhile, in the northern province of Quang Nam, Vietnamese troops tore into a large enemy unit six miles north of Hoa An Sunday, killing 64 and capturing 12.

While chasing the Communist troops the ARVN's overran a 45-bunker complex that they later destroyed.

The ARVN command reported only one soldier wounded while adding three crew-served weapons and 11 individual weapons to the toll.

The U.S. Naval forces headquarters announced Monday that Operation Game Warden, has been extended deep into the Mekong Delta, extended almost to the Cambodian border. Game Warden uses a fleet of patrol boats to check on water traffic enemy for smuggling of arms and war supplies.