

11 VC Killed in New Fighting at Saigon Airport

SAIGON (AP) — Eleven Viet Cong were reported killed in fresh fighting at Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Air Base Sunday night and Monday morning as U.S. and Vietnamese troops mopped up remnants of a suicide force that had penetrated the big airport early Sunday.

U.S. headquarters said the new fights broke out at the west end of the main runway and near the airbase rear gate late Sunday night. Contact broke off Monday morning. U.S. casualties were light.

The spokesman said a U.S. C-130 transport plane encountered moderate to heavy automatic weapons fire three miles from the main runway while making an approach early Monday, but was not hit.

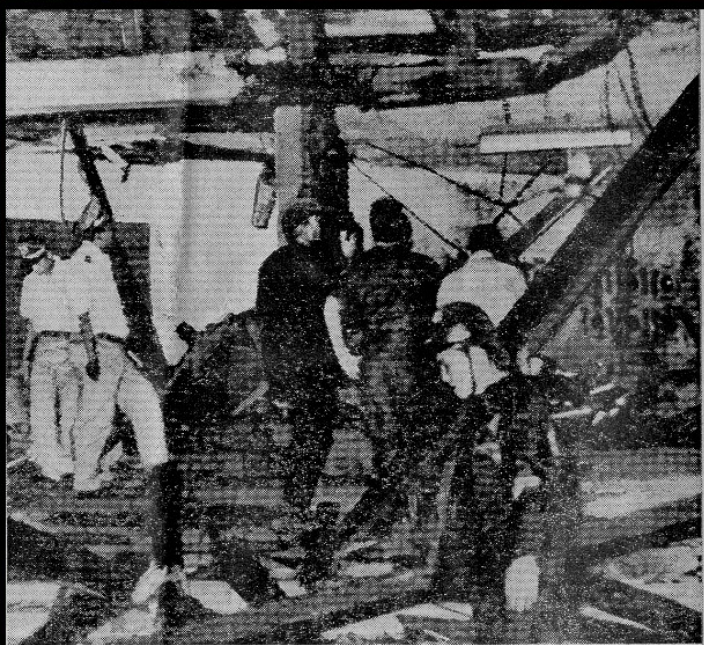
U.S. headquarters also reported a terrorist threw a fragmentation grenade on the porch of a residence leased by the U.S. Air Force in Saigon. Headquarters said three Air Force personnel and a Vietnamese man were wounded and that the residence sustained light damage.

In the fighting on the edge of Tan Son Nhut, U.S. Army gunship helicopters supported the ground troops in tracking down the Viet Cong raiders.

Flareships took to the air over the big base for the second consecutive night, lighting up a wide area on the edge of the South Vietnam capital.

The spokesman said there had been no mortar fire early Monday morning. All the action came from exchanges of small arms fire.

It was not clear whether the Viet Cong had made another attempt to penetrate the base.



U.S. demolition experts and Vietnamese firemen check interior of the Army's psychological war-

fare office which was damaged Sunday morning by an explosive charge. (AP Radiophoto)