

# VC HIT SAIGON

## Reds Invade Embassy, Air Base

### PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES

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Thursday, Feb. 1, 1968

SAIGON (UPI)—Viet Cong forces launched heavy attacks against Saigon Wednesday. Guerrillas fought their way into the U.S. Embassy and occupied five floors of it for several hours.

Other Reds invaded Saigon's Tan Son Nhut airport and battled American and Vietnamese troops and tanks.

American military policemen fought around the gleaming, new embassy for more than four hours. Helicopters dropped troops onto a roof-top pad to help rout the Communist suicide squad.

Radio reports from the embassy reported at 9:15 a.m. that it was secure and said 19 Viet Cong had been killed inside.

American casualties were reported as eight dead with an unknown number wounded.

Another 21 U.S. military police were killed while defending the military billets.

A U.S. spokesman said Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker was not in the embassy when it was attacked.

"There were no senior officials in there," the spokesman said.

The Communists bombed at least four American military hotels in Saigon and struck Independence Palace, the office of President Nguyen Van Thieu, with rockets and mortars in a pre-dawn raid. There was fighting in the streets near the palace.

The headquarters of the South Vietnamese military also came under ground attack.

The attacks were the most audacious of the new Communist offensive which erupted in eight cities Tuesday.

The attacks in Saigon began shortly before midnight. One of the American billets was reported still under heavy attack at mid-morning.

The Communist force fought defenders on three sides of Tan Son Nhut and then battled their way inside the barbed wire.

The military police made several assaults against the Embassy but the Viet Cong threw grenades and drove them back.

Saigon Radio also was attacked. A U.S. tank that came to rescue it was knocked out. But at mid-morning it broadcast a curfew announcement by Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky.

Viet Cong terrorists stole an American jeep with a .50-caliber machine gun mounted on the (Continued on Back Page, Col. 4)



A South Vietnamese soldier fires from behind an improvised barricade during street fighting in Da Nang. A dead guerrilla lies in

right background. At left is a fleeing man, and more furniture used by soldiers as barricades. (AP Radiophoto)

## Blast Kills 9, Hurts 20 Near Pittsburgh

Compiled From AP and UPI  
PITTSBURGH — A bone-jarring explosion ripped through a business district in suburban Ingram Tuesday, killing at least nine persons and injuring 20 others.  
The explosion leveled two buildings where utility workers were searching for a gas leak. Five of the dead were members of a 15-man gas company crew boring test holes in the street.

"There's nothing there," said one of the first newsmen on the scene. "I can't even tell what was there."

The explosion threw debris in all directions and shattered windows of homes and stores blocks away. Bits of clothing hung grotesquely from phone lines as a shroud of smoke drifted over the area.

A gas company spokesman said the 15-man crew was work-

ing on a four-inch low-pressure main. He said the gas was turned off at the curb bordering the buildings.

"At this time we have no idea what caused the explosion," the spokesman said.

Bulldozers and highlifts were used to clear away the rubble. Four of the bodies were taken from the smoldering debris.

"It sounded just like a bomb," said Mrs. Samuel Simpson, who

lives just across a railroad track from the blast scene. She said she was walking into her kitchen when the explosion took place.

"I looked out and saw people and debris everywhere. It blew one of the workers clear across the tracks."

Gas and electric power were shut off over a wide area of the community, which has a population of about 6,000. A grade school about two blocks from the blast scene was evacuated.

### Runaway In 1st Gear

LONDON (UPI) — Gareth Reeves ran away from home Monday.

But before slipping out of the house he left a note saying, "I'm leaving . . . and taking the car with me . . ."

Now his parents are not only wondering where he and the car have gone, but how he learned to drive. Gareth is 12.

# VC Raiders Out to Terrorize Cities

# VC Plan Release of 2 GIs

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department said Tuesday that the series of attacks undertaken by the Communists during the Buddhist lunar holiday period has been a "major effort to subject large numbers of the

Vietnamese people to maximum terror and intimidation." Press Officer Robert J. McCloskey said that the timing of the attacks makes it clear that an extensive plan was involved to smash at population centers in Vietnam.

maintain its suspension of bombing in the northernmost part of North Vietnam until 5 p.m. EST Tuesday—the period for expiration of the 36-hour Tet cease-fire.

The State Department spokesman said that the U.S. bombing pause was being observed north of Vinh.

Vinh is a seaport north of the 17th parallel which has frequently served as the point where supplies and reinforcements for the South are formed and sent southeast over jungle trails. It has been a frequent target of U.S. air attack.

The spokesman assumed that the bombing of North Vietnam could be resumed after the expiration of the cease fire period.

## Hanoi, VC Protest Truce Halt

TOKYO (AP) — North Vietnam in a protest Tuesday accused the United States and the Saigon government of violating the New Year Tet cease-fire which went into effect at 1 a.m. Jan. 27.

The protest was issued by a spokesman for the North Vietnamese Foreign Ministry.

The protest was reported by Hanoi radio in a broadcast monitored in Tokyo.

The Allied Lunar New Year cease-fire was canceled throughout South Vietnam in an announcement by South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu Tuesday.

Cancellation of the Allied cease-fire, scheduled from 6 p.m. Monday until 6 a.m. Wednesday, Saigon time, followed widespread attacks by Communist forces on at least seven provincial capitals in various parts of the country early Tuesday.

Hanoi's official broadcast said cancellation of the Tet Lunar New Year cease-fire was also protested by a spokesman for the armed forces of the South Vietnam National Liberation Front (Viet Cong).

The lunar offensive by the Communist forces was described as the largest coordinated attack of the Vietnam war.

The State Department spokesman said, however, that despite these actions by the Communist forces, the United States would

Because of the upsurge of ground fighting, the cease-fire had been canceled in the five northern provinces of South Vietnam. The Communist New Year offensive in provincial capitals led to cancellation of the remaining hours of the cease fire throughout the remainder of South Vietnam.



## Ship Protest Report Probed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department said Tuesday it has not received any protest from Cambodia that a U.S. ship penetrated Cambodia's territorial waters Jan. 5-6, as reported in Phnom Penh.

The French Embassy, which was reported to have been requested to deliver a protest to the United States, commented that no such protest has been received.

State Department authorities said they will look into the reports.

Reports said the ship had hovered off the Cambodian coast near Ream on the peninsula, location of the major Cambodian port of Sihanoukville.

## New Cabinet Set For Cambodia

BANGKOK (UPI) — Penn Nouth, premier of Cambodia four times since 1948, has formed a government for the fifth time to replace outgoing caretaker premier Son Sann. Radio Cambodia announced.

In a broadcast monitored here, the Cambodian state radio said the new cabinet would shortly be submitted to the National Assembly for approval.

Son Sann resigned two weeks ago along with the rest of the caretaker cabinet that had held power since April, 1967.



## The Khe Sanh 'Quick Step'

Two U.S. Marines practice the "Khe Sanh quick step" as they dash for cover while North Vietnamese mortar the perimeter of the base in

northern South Vietnam. The Marines run through a clutter of gear to reach their bunkers.

(S&S Radiophoto by John Olson)

## Casualties

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

### KILLED IN ACTION

- Army**  
 Sgt. Bobby West, Placentia, Calif.  
 Sgt. Michael E. De Busk, Shelbyville, Ind.  
 Spec. 4 Floyd C. Lachney, Boyce, La.  
 Sgt. John W. Knight, Berwick, Maine.  
 2LT. Patrick R. Wolfe Jr., Waterford, Mich.  
 Spec. 4 Gene M. Kosel, Graceton, Minn.  
 Pfc. Philip M. Cirillo, Herkimer, N.Y.  
 Pfc. James R. Moore, New York City.  
 Cpl. Harold F. Mc Gaha, Columbia, S. C.
- Marine Corps**  
 Pfc. John Washington, Eorle, Ark.  
 Cpl. Warren H. Roliva Jr., Shelton, Fla.  
 LCpl. Joseph W. Benedic, Jacksonville, Fla.  
 LCpl. Donald F. Parker, Dalton, Ga.  
 Pfc. Albert Evans, Macan, Ga.  
 Pfc. Gerald F. Lenz, Whiting, Ind.  
 LCpl. Brian P. Ahern, Quincy, Mass.  
 2LT. Richard P. Reynolds Jr., New York City.  
 LCpl. Michele M. Roseberry, Marysville, Ohio.  
 Pfc. Steve S. Sarossy, Fairview Park, Ohio.  
 Pfc. Clarence E. Mitchell Jr., Cincinnati, Ohio.  
 2LT. Michael H. Thomas, Pawnee, Okla.  
 LCpl. Michael E. Morris, Lawton, Okla.  
 Pfc. Robert J. Black Jr., Monroeville, Pa.  
 Pfc. Stephen A. Guardino, Harrisburg, Pa.  
 Pfc. George A. Link, Kensington, Pa.  
 Cpl. Charles W. Bryan, Mc Kinney, Tex.  
 Pfc. Joe R. Dominguet, Irving, Tex.  
 Pfc. Curtis B. Bugger, Kearns, Utah.

### DIED OF WOUNDS

- Marine Corps**  
 Cpl. Michael O. Glenn, Indiantown, Fla.

### MISSING TO DEAD—HOSTILE

- Army**  
 Spec. 4 Kerry M. Bugajsky, Christopher, Ill.  
 Spec. 4 Herbert R. Anderson, Greensboro, N.C.

### MISSING ACTION

- Army**  
 LTC Joseph P. Seymore.  
 2LT. Eulis N. Wilkes Jr.  
 WO Gerald L. Mc Kinsey Jr.  
 Spec. 4 Dale S. Pughish.  
 Pfc. Leo E. Michoud.  
 Pfc. Dennis E. Fuller.  
 Pvt. Jerry W. Elliott.

### DIED NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION

- Army**  
 Spec. 4 Joe L. Biffie Jr., Gainesville, Tex.  
 MISSING TO DEAD—NON HOSTILE

### MISSING ACTION

- Army**  
 Pfc. Bert D. Letter, Pulaski, Ky.  
 Spec. 4 Robert L. Burrell, Carthage, N.Y.  
 MISSING NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION

- Army**  
 WO William A. Kimsey Jr.  
 Spec. 5 Echol W. Coolston Jr.

# Berserk Filipino Slays 17

MANILA (AP)—A Filipino laborer went on a rampage Sunday night and killed 17 persons with a machete, Philippine News Service reported Tuesday.

PNS said the Philippine constabulary was hunting for the laborer on the central Philippine island of Leyte.

He was identified as Isidro Formentera, a family man.

PNS said Formentera's victims were village residents, and that one entire family was wiped out.

The reason for his rampage was unknown.

# U.S. Denies Bias on Processing

SAIGON (AP) — U.S. Army civilian personnel authorities in South Vietnam "have not delayed the processing of work requests of so-called third country nationals," an army spokesman said.

The statement was made after news dispatches quoted Philippine Foreign Secretary Narcuso Ramos as saying the "unexpected and unfriendly attitude" of the U.S. Army Civilian Personnel office (CPO) in Saigon is making it difficult for the Philippines to help its workers in South Vietnam.

In its statement Saturday, the U.S. Army said the United States "does not have the right to grant work permits to such persons, but simply forwards the requests to the government of Vietnam after screening them to verify the requirements exist for employes in the numbers and skills concerned.

"Permits to work for the United States in Vietnam are granted by the government of Vietnam."

# Ship's Crew Aids Students

ABOARD THE USS CORAL SEA (PAO) — Many children in Zambales Province, Philippines, used to dream of a high school education, but few actually got one.

Now, however, with the support of Operation School House, 625 students are now working toward a four-year high school diploma. An additional 43 students, sponsored by the attack aircraft carrier Coral Sea, will begin their freshman year in June.

During her last visit to the Philippines, the Coral Sea contributed \$946 to Operation School House, a successful people-to-people program established by the U.S. Naval Communication Station (NAVCOM-STAPHIL) at San Maguel.

The contribution will pay the \$22 first-year high school tuition for 43 Filipino students who would not otherwise be able to attend.

Capt. William H. Shaweress, Coral Sea commanding officer, presented the check to Ensign R.W. Hinton, NAVCOMSTAPHIL public affairs officer, and Chief Yeoman B.B. Felizardo.

# 1st Mobile Comm. Group

# Signal Unit Stays On Call in War Zone

By JOC JIM FALK  
S&S Staff Writer

CLARK AB, R.P.—Need a new air strip in the combat zone?

Well, naturally, you have to have the real estate. But, after that, what about a control tower, navigational aids and a ground control approach (GCA) system?

Do just what nearly every other landing field, large and small, operating in Southeast Asia has done—call on the 1st Mobile Communications Group here.

The 1,300 men of this group are prepared to move out on a moment's notice to any place between Hawaii and India to support tactical air control systems, give emergency mission support or provide mobile equipment to replace Defense Communication Service gear which is out of order.

They've got everything needed to control air traffic and provide communications for troops in the field—from complete control towers and secure teletype

systems to small radio sets which can be carried in a suitcase.

And, according to the group commander, Col. Harry Urban, it's all mobile.

"Equipment for every service we offer, plus a crew to set it up, maintain and operate it, is on alert at all times and can be airborne in six hours," Urban said.

These units get called out often to ply their trade. At any time 25 to 30 deployments—some

200 men—may be at remote air strips in Vietnam and Thailand and in the field directing airlifts for ground operations.

Their motto, "First in, last out," is not just a catchy phrase.

"We often move into a new base with the forward element," said SMSgt. Frank Bacon, who has made five deployments in his 15 months with the 1st MOB.

Bacon mentioned Tuy Hoa and Phu Cat as two of these "bare base" operations.

"There were only three or four other people at Phu Cat when we moved in, but on a job like this we take everything we'll need to operate our equipment and support ourselves for 90 days—including rations, spare parts and even toilet paper," he said.

Bacon said his most interesting job was at Marble Mountain near Da Nang where he was in charge of a 27-man team setting up a 300-line telephone system for Marine and Army units.

"We did it all, from stringing 30,000 feet of wire to acting as operators until the permanent troops were ready to take over," he said.

"Our Air Force specialty codes pretty much go out the window when we're on deployment," said Senior M.Sgt. Donald Shields.

"With so much to do out there and so few people to do it, everyone soon becomes a jack of all trades. It's surprising how some men who don't show you too much here at Clark turn out to be the best workers on deployment," Shields said.

All who deploy are qualified on the M-16, but Shields said once they get out on the job, they also learn how to use other weapons.

"It's a matter of necessity because we never know when we may have to help fight off an attack," Shields said.

Bacon said, however, the group has lost only one man.

"He had finished his job at a Special Forces camp and was anxious to get to the more secure area at Da Nang. Just as he stepped off the plane he was hit by a mortar blast," Bacon said.

# Plate Maker Wins Award

MACHINATO, Okinawa (IO) —Spec. 4 John G. Damian, a printing plate maker for the 7th Psychological Operations (Psyop) Group's printing branch, has been awarded a \$175 cash-incentive award for a cost-reduction suggestion.

Damian's suggestion was to cut a larger printing plate into two smaller plates, called Hantscho plates, used by the 7th Psyop in the production of printed leaflets for use in Vietnam as well as material for the high commissioner of the Ryukyu Islands.

Damian's method results in a savings of \$1.30 per plate over the commercial pre-cut Hantscho plates with an estimated annual savings of over \$3,500.



Men of the 1st MOB team in Vietnam pile sandbags on a bunker to house some of their communications equipment. MOB has special

equipment for every service it offers, plus a crew to set it up, maintain and operate it. The team can be airborne in six hours—on the way to anywhere. (S&S)

# 7 Honored For Feats

KADENA AB, Okinawa (OI) —The Legion of Merit has been presented to Col. Robert G. Williams, new 313th Air Div. vice commander.

Maj. Gen. Jerry D. Page, division commander, presented the medal to Williams for his service as commander of the 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing in Vietnam.

The citation praised him for his "leadership, exemplary foresight and ceaseless efforts which resulted in significant contributions to the effectiveness and success of the Air Force's efforts within Southeast Asia."

Other awards presented included three Silver Stars, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, a Bronze Star, five Air Medals and a Republic of Vietnam Honor Medal, second class.

Other recipients were Maj. Charles E. Bishop, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters; Maj. William W. Raitt, Silver Star, DFC and the Air Medal with six oak leaf clusters; Capt. Lawrence G. Hoppe, Silver Star, DFC with three oak leaf clusters and a fourth oak leaf cluster to the Air Medal; Capt. Leo E. Henderson, DFC and the Air Medal with nine oak leaf clusters; M.Sgt. James F. Schofield, Bronze Star and the Republic of Vietnam Honor Medal, second class; and Capt. Andy L. Haewood, Air Medal.

# Filipinos Training For Radar Control

CLARK AB, R.P. (OI) —Members of the Philippine Civil Aeronautical Administration (CAA) are undergoing training at the 1961st Communications Group (AFCS) Radar Approach Control Facility in anticipation of receiving their own radar.

When their radar facility becomes available, they will be familiarized in its use by military personnel. Later the operation will be turned over to the Manila CAA.

Eight personnel are here for a two-week course, which meets half of the requirement. Eventually, the entire staff of the Philippine CAA will have undergone a month of operating the equipment at the 1961st Comm. Group prior to receiving their own units.

With its own radar the CAA will be able to control aircraft

at a greater range, better handle aircraft in dense areas, improve air traffic control during inclement conditions, and expedite traffic handling capabilities.

# Clark Welcomes New Support Sq.

CLARK AB, R.P. (OI)—Det. 2, 6003rd Support Sq., Naha AB, Okinawa, recently arrived here to become a part of the 5th Tactical Control Group.

The 30-man unit has been absorbed into the 5th as a radar evaluation branch. It is commanded by Capt. Kenneth E. Neywick.

Assigned to the unit are draftsmen, illustrators, photographers and radar and communications specialists.

# 13th AF Picks Airman of '68

CLARK AB, R.P. (OI) —SM.Sgt. William C. Sandven, 5th Tactical Control Group, has been selected to represent 13th Air Force as Outstanding Airman for 1968.

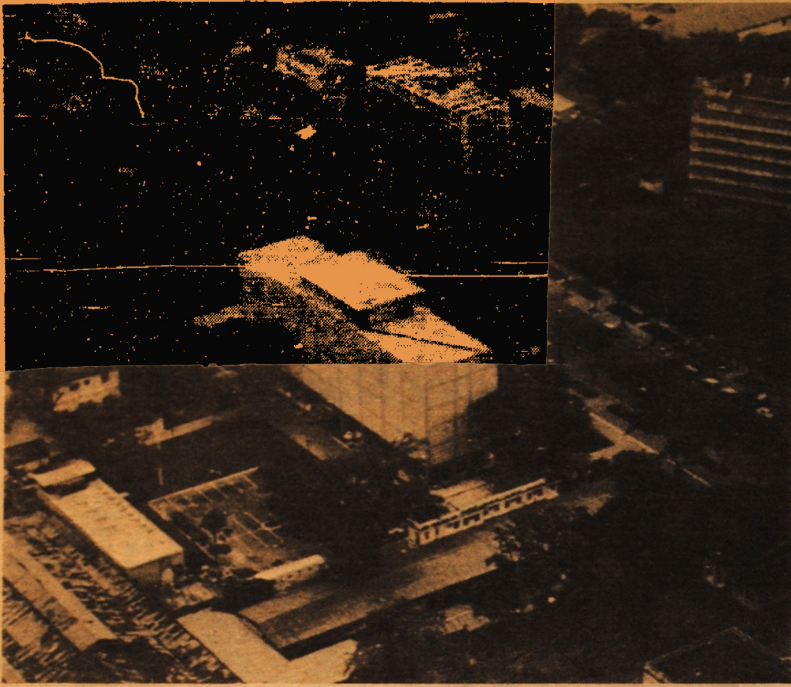
Sandven was chosen from command nominees throughout the 13th by a selection board of officers representing Thailand,

Taiwan and the Philippines. Upon receiving this selection, the sergeant was recommended for consideration in the Pacific Air Forces outstanding airman program.

Noncommissioned officer in charge of ground radio maintenance, Sandven is directly re-

sponsible for supervising 84 men in the preparation and deployment of radio equipment and maintenance personnel to southeast Asia in support of the unit's mission.

# Viet Cong Invade U.S. Embassy, Air Base



U.S. EMBASSY BUILDING AND COMPOUND IN SAIGON, INVADDED BY VC.

AP Radiophoto

(Continued From Page 1)  
back and drove it through the streets.  
Viet Cong forces also invaded the residence of one of Bunker's assistants, Col. George Jacobson, mission coordinator, and occupied the bottom floor for several hours while Jacobson held up in the floor above.  
MPs finally charged the residence, next to the Embassy and routed the Viet Cong.  
The attacks were part of the largest terror offensive yet launched by the Communists. The Reds ushered in the Lunar

**SAIGON (S&S)—Pacific Stars and Stripes Vietnam Bureau, in a late report from Saigon, listed these developments:**  
—A demolition team was disarming two mortar rounds fired into MACV headquarters near Tan Son Nhut Airport.  
—An MP machine-gun patrol jeep was blown up in Saigon, killing two military policemen.  
—The Viet Cong set up a machine gun in front of a bowling alley and opened fire. Vietnamese tanks were heading for the scene.

New Year early Tuesday with attacks against eight major cities, at least three American airfields and some 20 to 30 towns and military positions throughout the country.  
Early Wednesday they were at it again.

Military spokesman said the huge Marine helicopter park at Da Nang's Marble Mountain was hit with rockets early Wednesday for the second day.

Can Tho, a key government city in the Mekong Delta and headquarters of the IV Corps Region was attacked.  
At Kontum, the Military Assistance Command headquarters was under heavy attack early Wednesday. Fighting also was reported in Ban Nam Thuot and light action at Pleiku.

(The U.S. helicopter assault on the Embassy began about 8:35 a.m., with the choppers swooping in over downtown Saigon rooftops to unload troops, AP said.)

(By 8:55 a.m., the U.S. forces had secured the grounds of the Embassy and troops were working their way through the building to flush out remaining Viet Cong.)

(By that time, 17 Viet Cong bodies had been counted in the Embassy grounds.)

(Other Viet Cong were known to be in the basement of the building and possibly on other floors. They also were in a two-story building behind the Embassy, and gunfire was coming from both buildings.)

(The white embassy building, opened only last November, was badly shot up and the Great Seal of the United States was knocked by bullets from the wall above the entrance.)

(The body of one Vietnamese Embassy employe was found on

the grounds. In the street in front was a black sedan that had been shot up when it failed to halt. The driver was believed to have been mortally wounded.)

On Tuesday, the Communists quickly ended a planned 36-hour holiday truce when they attacked seven provincial capitals and the city of Da Nang, *Pacific Stars & Stripes* Vietnam Bureau reported.

The U.S. command acknowledged "full scale" attacks on Kontum, Ban Me Thuot, Nha Trang, Hoi An, Tuy Hoa, Qui Nhon and Pleiku. Ton Canh, a village in the Dak To area, was reported burned.

The attack on Kontum cost the enemy 139 dead while the defenders lost 9 dead and 50 wounded.

At Ban Me Thuot, A Vietnamese Army regiment reported finding 150 Communist bodies. The Vietnamese reported 20 friendly troops killed and 46 wounded.

Fighting was reported in the streets and a Viet Cong group was holding out in Nha Trang late Tuesday afternoon. The city is the site of I Field Force headquarters, which controls all U.S. forces in the II Corps zone.

Sources said 32 Reds had been killed in Nha Trang.

At Da Nang, six planes were destroyed and one Marine killed in a rocket attack on the U.S. air base. In the city itself, reports said 64 enemy soldiers were killed and 231 suspects detained. A Red squad reportedly penetrated I Corps headquarters in the city before being driven off.

At Qui Nhon, an estimated two platoons of Reds were reported to have occupied a radio station and maintenance building. The Reds were reported to be dug in but surrounded by nightfall.

At least 28 Reds were reported killed in Qui Nhon.

## Diplomat Kills Cong

SAIGON (AP) — A senior American diplomat, trapped in an upstairs room during the fight for the U.S. Embassy, fought a duel with a Viet Cong suicide squad man and killed him with a pistol thrown up to his room from outside.

The diplomat, U.S. Mission coordinator George Jacobson, 56, blasted the wounded Viet Cong with two rounds from the .45.

## World Weather

USAF Weather Central

TEMPERATURES Jan. 30					
	H	L			
Bangkok	91	73	Naha	66	63
Chitose	25	-7	Saigon	88	73
Guam	85	67	Seoul	27	14
Htozuke	46	28	Taipei	66	61
Manila	84	68	Tokyo	52	34
Albany	36	33	Memphis	69	55
Albuquerque	38	32	Miami	73	69
Amarillo	50	42	Milwaukee	48	35
Atlanta	68	43	Moscow	23	14
B'ingham	72	47	N. Orleans	73	59
Bismarck	64	39	NY	39	24
Boise	38	29	W. N. Platte	31	15
Boston	35	32	Okl. City	65	45
Chicago	52	40	Omaha	26	18
Cincinnati	54	47	Phila.	47	38
Cleveland	46	38	Phoenix	66	45
Denver	41	23	Pittsburgh	45	39
Des Moines	43	25	Port., O.	31	25
Detroit	29	03	Rapid City	29	-2
Fort Worth	68	42	Reno	45	32
Hong Kong	75	60	Richmond	66	52
Honolulu	81	62	Singapore	88	72
Houston	74	60	St. Louis	65	47
Ind'apolis	51	43	Sydney	75	68
Jack'ville	74	51	Salt Lake	44	21
Jakarta	85	72	St. Antonio	73	62
Kansas City	80	65	San Diego	59	45
K. Lumpur	88	73	San Fran.	53	46
Las Vegas	55	28	Seattle	35	29
London	52	48	Shreveport	74	53
Louisville	55	49	Sydney	79	71
L.A.	58	40	Tucson	63	46
Melbourne	88	64	Wash.	57	35

## Report 1 Pueblo Man Dead, Others Being Treated Well

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Defense Department said Tuesday the government has received a report that one member of the crew of the U.S. intelligence ship Pueblo, seized by the North Koreans, is dead.  
But the department spokesman, Asst. Secretary of Defense Phil G. Goulding, said, "We are not able to confirm the reliability" of this report, or of other re-

ports that the 83-man crew is being treated properly by North Korea and that the wounded have been given medical care.  
Goulding noted that White House press secretary George Christian had told newsmen earlier of hearing reports that the crew is being properly treated.  
"The government still has no firm information on injured or wounded among the crew of the

USS Pueblo," Goulding said in a statement.  
Brief messages received by radio from the Pueblo at the time she was seized off North Korea Jan. 23 indicated that three or four men had been wounded or injured, Goulding said. He described this as constituting "our only firsthand knowledge."  
When Christian supplied the word on reports that the crew was being properly treated he did not identify the source of the information or say how much credence the government placed in it.

So far, Christian said, there have been no reports received from the international committee of the Red Cross which is seeking to intervene on behalf of the 83-man crew of the Pueblo.

President Johnson was awakened before dawn Tuesday for reports on new Communist attacks in South Vietnam, and held meetings with Democratic congressional leaders to review the situation in Vietnam and North Korea.

Republican leaders will be briefed and kept advised on the developments in these areas, Christian said.

## LBJ Asks Increase In GI Home Loans

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson asked Congress Tuesday to revise the GI home loan program so veterans can buy better, more expensive houses.

In a special message, Johnson also called for a new law to help subsidize veterans who train themselves for teaching, police and fire fighting work, hospital employment and jobs in the anti-poverty program.

The chief executive urged that the maximum guarantee on GI home loans be increased to \$10,000 from \$7,500. These guarantees normally cover about 35 per cent of the value of a loan, which means a higher guarantee would make available larger loans for better houses.

The President said his proposed Veterans in the Public Service Act would "provide incentives to channel the talents of the veterans to the most urgent needs of rural and urban America."

He gave this example of the veteran who wants to teach in a deprived area:  
"While he is getting the

schooling that will qualify him for teaching, he will draw additional benefits of \$50 a month for every month he agrees to teach—up to three years of such extra benefits.

"While he is actually on the job teaching, he will draw a special training allowance, in addition to his regular salary—\$80 a month for the first school year, \$60 a month for the second."

## Army Paratroop Plane Crash-Lands, Injuring 3

ZEPHYRHILLS, Fla. (AP) — An airplane carrying five members of the Army "Golden Knights" paratroop team crashed on landing here Tuesday, injuring three persons in the plane.

An administrator at Jackson Memorial Hospital in nearby Dade City said two of the men were sent to MacDill Air Force Base at Tampa, and another was treated at the hospital.  
Ralph Settle, the administra-

tor, said the men sent to the air base had minor injuries.

"We're treating the pilot for possible internal injuries," he said, "but he is in good condition."

Settle said the craft crashed after takeoff just south of Zephyrhills, 10 miles northeast of Tampa.

None of the injured was identified immediately.

The Golden Knights appeared in Zephyrhills Jan. 11 for exercises.

## Bunker Safe In VC Raid

SAIGON (AP)—U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker was whisked safely away from his residence under heavy guard early Wednesday when Viet Cong attacked and seized the American Embassy in Saigon.

Bunker's residence is about five blocks from the Embassy. U.S. officials would say only that the 74-year-old Bunker was safe, but refused to give any clue as to where he was taken.

He had been scheduled to leave for Nepal Tuesday to visit his wife, who is the ambassador there, but the trip was canceled.