

# Frantic Battle Saves U.S. Embassy

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## 5,000 REDS DIE IN RAIDS



AMERICAN MP'S LEAD A VIET CONG AWAY FROM THE U.S. EMBASSY DURING WEDNESDAY'S ATTACK IN SAIGON.

UPI Rodlophoto

## 80,000 Stage Anti-Red Rally in Seoul

By SPEC. 4 CRAIG GARNER  
SAS Korea Bureau

SEOUL Thousands of angry Korean students and citizens burned an effigy of North Korean Premier Kim Il Sung in City Hall Plaza and loudly denounced the hijacking of the Pueblo and the Communist attempt to assassinate ROK President Chung Hee Park.

The 10-foot image was splashed with gasoline and set

ablaze after 80,000 persons, mostly industrial workers and black-clad middle and high school students, crowded Seoul Stadium to hear Mayor Kim Hyun Ok and other speakers assail the ship seizure and the assassination attempt that ended with most of the would-be killers dead.

Other exhorted the crowd in frigid Seoul Stadium to prepare both the South Korean populace

and military to repulse further attacks that might include an all-out North Korean invasion.

They demanded that the four remaining infiltrators of the 31 discovered near Park's residence at Blue House Jan. 21 be tracked down and killed.

Three ROK Army veterans of Vietnam slashed their fingertips and scrawled in blood on banners: "Kill Kim Il Sung" and

"Fight for Reunification."

Hundreds of colored banners called for the return of the Pueblo and her crew, the defection of North Koreans, the death of the remaining infiltrators and for citizens to steel themselves for a second invasion and another war.

The Seoul rally marked the fifth day of demonstrations all over the republic. It fitted the (Continued on Back Page, Col.

SAIGON (AP)—For the handful of Americans inside the glossy white U.S. Embassy, the fight that began at 2:54 a.m. Wednesday was one of survival.

The 19 Viet Cong commandos who blasted their way through the embassy's ornate concrete outside wall with explosive charges made it clear early that they intended to stay until they were killed, and to take as many Americans with them as they could.

For the young soldiers of the 716th Military Police Bn., crawling along the exposed gutters and sidewalks toward the besieged embassy, the mission was to clean out the enemy before he could get inside the building.

The Viet Cong planned the embassy attack well.

They dressed some of their commandos in the black pajamas of the Vietnamese peasant, others in the white shirts of the

Saigon white collar worker. All carried perfectly forged curfew passes.

When the attack began, those in white shirts fastened the top button as a mark of identification. Those in peasant garb pulled red armbands up their sleeves.

At the designated time, enemy mortars and rockets began crashing down on the capital.

The Communist commandos sprinted down the wide tree-lined boulevard, dodging

Photos on Pages 12, 13

from trunk to trunk. The Vietnamese guards outside the embassy were crouched down to avoid the incoming shells. The Viet Cong laid the charge in an instant. The loud explosion blew in the northern corner of the embassy outer wall and they were inside.

The first shell fired against Saigon sent window glass spraying over the bed of (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

SAIGON (AP)—Nearly 5,000 Communists have been killed in 54 hours of savage fighting that has swept across South Vietnam, the U.S. Military Command said Thursday.

The soaring casualty toll was announced as sharp firefights erupted again Thursday in outlying sections of Saigon and heavy action was reported in other areas of the country.

Command spokesmen said 4,559 enemy were killed in action during the period from 5 p.m. Monday to midnight Wednesday. Another 1,862 persons were seized as Viet Cong suspects.

U.S. casualties for the period were listed at 272 killed and 929 wounded. South Vietnamese government casualties were 300 killed and 747 wounded, spokesmen said. Other Allied casualties were put at three killed and 22 wounded.

The bloodiest general fighting of the war broke out after the enemy launched a series of devastating lunar new year (Tet) attacks on South Vietnam's major cities and on key Allied air- (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

### At Glance

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U.S. knew attack was coming. Page 24

# War Comes Home to a Disbelieving Saigon

By BILL COLLINS

SAIGON Bureau

SAIGON — The war came home to Saigon Wednesday morning.

A city never changed more quickly.

Tuesday was the second day of Tet, the Lunar New Year, and Saigoners were in the midst of their biggest party in years. It was to have lasted until Thursday. This is the time when all Vietnamese celebrate their birthdays.

There were throngs of dressed-up promenaders in the downtown streets. Flowers and banners and a sputtering, sometimes booming din of firecrackers.

The city, grown placid and prosperous in a year of comparative security, seemed to be forgetting about the fighting in other parts of South Vietnam. You got the feeling that maybe

it was forgetting too much — and too soon.

That was Tuesday. Now it's Wednesday night and the scene is an office in the REX, a mid-town U.S. officers' billet.

There are no neon signs on Nguyen Hue, this city's version of Broadway, and there are no people in sight. In places near here, though, people are dying.

What light there is comes from flares dropped by the helicopters chattering overhead and a fire about two blocks from here, somewhere near the U.S. Embassy.

And there are no more firecrackers. There is the distant chatter of small arms, the whump of a mortar shell of grenade. There were three blasts, probably mortars, in the block across the street at about 8:30.

In the background you can hear the rumble of bombs and rockets being unloaded by

American aircraft on Viet Cong around Tan Son Nhut AB about three miles north of the city's center.

Here in the REX and the adjoining U.S. press center the windows are curtained and only what lights are absolutely necessary are on. There are men with oak leaves and eagles on their shoulders and machine guns in their hands up on the roof and in the hall. There are soldiers and Marines too, tense and wary.

It's been a strange day. Most of us awoke to what we thought were Tet firecrackers and discovered they were for real.

News correspondents scheduled to fly north "to go where the action is" found the action had come to them.

But even with bullets flying up and down the avenues, Saigon didn't seem to believe it.

In the early afternoon, with fights raging at the U.S. Em-

bassy four blocks east, and on the palace grounds five blocks in the other direction the open terrace of the Hotel Continental was crowded. Customers sipped drinks and chatted to the tune of the gunfire, flinching only at the impact of a nearby rocket or grenade.

At 3:15 p.m., a cowering cluster of newsmen (three of us were pinned behind a low stone wall, and then a tree, by ricocheting burst of machine-gun fire) gaped as a pedicab carrying a Vietnamese woman and two small children rolled leisurely up Nguyen Du Ave. A hundred feet behind them, U.S., Korean and Vietnamese troops were trading hot and heavy fire with a half-dozen Viet Cong who had holed up in a four-story building next to the Korean Embassy. A dead VC was sprawled on the sidewalk. The pedicab proceeded calmly up the street and around a corner.

Don Pratt, Vietnam bureau chief for Stars and Stripes, and Gerard Forken, staff correspondent, reported that Vietnamese national policemen, government troops and Korean and U.S. M.P.s fought a day-long battle in an effort to rout a large Communist force from a six-story building near the Presidential Palace.

During the battle, Forken narrowly escaped death when a Communist grenade rolled up beside him as he was pinned down behind a car. It failed to explode. He had to lie near the grenade for nearly 30 minutes as Communist fire kept him trapped.

It grew quiet a few hours before dusk. But when the sun went down the VC came out again.

And if they weren't sure earlier, the people of Saigon knew now that they were at war.

## All of S. Viet Put Under Martial Law

SAIGON (AP) — President Nguyen Van Thieu proclaimed martial law throughout South Vietnam Wednesday after two days of fighting swept the nation's major cities and the capital of Saigon.

The declaration meant that the Saigon government would rule by decree until further notice, rather than under the constitutional government inaugurated last year.

Thieu also declared the closing of all places of entertainment such as theaters, bars and night clubs throughout the country.

In a message broadcast to the war-ravaged nation, Thieu further reminded his countrymen that a state of war was still in

force and that all gatherings and demonstrations were banned. He warned that any activities harmful to public order would be "severely punished."

The 45-year-old president called on his people to "remain calm" in the face of the turbulence across the country in the last few days.

He said the Communists "have suffered heavy losses everywhere" and added that "our armed forces have had the situation under control since the very outset."

"The Communists' general offensive attempt has been completely foiled," the president said.

Thieu's power to declare martial law was not entirely clear, but some governmental experts said he acted under article 84 of South Vietnam's constitution which enables the president to sign decrees declaring states of emergency or alert. The article states that the National Assembly must meet within 12 days to ratify, amend or reject such decrees. According to some interpretations, Thieu's decree was within the constitutional framework although the article does not specifically mention martial law.

Thieu's message proclaiming martial law made no mention of suspending the National Assembly.

## VC Blasts Rip R.P. Embassy

MANILA (UPI) — Viet Cong explosives wrecked the Philippine embassy residence in Saigon Wednesday but the ambassador, his wife and a household helper were led to safety and protected by three Filipino soldiers, according to the Foreign Office.

Foreign Secretary Narciso Ramos said Ambassador Luis Moreno Salcedo reported by radio from Saigon that the Filipino community there was safe although "sporadic gunfire" continued within the vicinity of the Philippine chancery up to mid-afternoon.

Moreno said the Viet Cong set off or hurled two to three explosives at the embassy residence in a pre-dawn attack, making the two-story house "unlivable" and wrecking two cars parked inside the grounds. He said the terrorists possibly also fired rifle grenades at the house.

Ramos called the attack "a most reprehensible act of terrorism" but he also commended the embassy staff, saying their "comportment . . . in the face of actual danger leaves nothing to be desired."

## Saigon Secure, Bunker Says

SAIGON (UPI)—U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker appeared on the back steps of the American Embassy under heavy guard Wednesday night and told newsmen none of the Viet Cong attacks in the Saigon area had been successful and "Saigon is secure now."

"We've all been aware of the buildup here and in the north and of the enemy's declared intentions," Bunker said. "I expect you (the press corps) have all read the National Liberation Front radio statements."

"They are making grossly exaggerated claims."

The NLF radio claimed 200 civilians killed in the embassy attack alone.

Bunker read a brief prepared statement in which he said the Viet Cong attack on the embassy was "obviously premeditated and planned well in advance."

He said "it is equally clear that attack was carefully co-



**Dodging Bullets in Da Nang**

A Vietnamese father, his child clinging to his neck, runs for the cover of a sandbag barricade during street fighting in Da Nang as South Vietnamese soldiers wait to resume the battle with Communist guerrillas. (AP Radiophoto)

## Sergeant Kills VC Captor

SAIGON (UPI) — Sgt. William Jackson, a 34-year-old Texas photographer for the U.S. Mission, was captured by Viet Cong during street fighting in Saigon Wednesday.

Jackson escaped his kidnapers after a grueling few minutes being marched through a Vietnamese graveyard with a carbine muzzle against his neck. One of his captors was shot by a Vietnamese government soldier.

He said there was fighting in the street where he lives and he went out with a Vietnamese to take photographs.

"We were in the cemetery and if you put so much as a finger up it would get shot off by a sniper . . . Snap, like that," he said.

"The first I knew was I put my head round to take a photograph and felt a carbine in my neck. They took my gun and started taking us off. Then someone got one of the guys behind me, and the other one blinked when he shouldn't have. I got him with his knife."

Jackson is a Korean War veteran and formerly served with the 25th Inf. Div. at Cu Chi, about 20 miles from Saigon.

## Red Diversion Seen by Westy

SAIGON (UPI) — Widespread enemy attacks throughout South Vietnam, including widespread terrorism in Saigon, were "diversionary efforts" to take attention away from the country's embattled northern areas, Gen. William Westmoreland said Wednesday.

"The enemy has deceitfully taken advantage of the Tet truce in order to create maximum consternation in South Vietnam, particularly in population areas," Westmoreland said after visiting the U.S. Embassy here.

"Tuesday, the enemy exposed himself and he suffered great casualties. When I left my office last night (Tuesday), we had accounted for almost 700 enemy killed. My guess is the number probably will be more than 700. My guess is the enemy's death toll Wednesday will be comparable to Tuesday," the U.S. commander in Vietnam said.



**ELLSWORTH BUNKER**  
"Aware of Buildup"

ordinated with similar attacks elsewhere in the Saigon area and other populated areas around the country.

"This callous disregard of the announced truce for the traditional Tet holidays through acts of terror and assassination against the civil population of South Vietnam is an accompaniment to the invasion and open aggression in the Northern I Corps area by North Vietnamese forces directed against South Vietnam."

Bunker said the main purpose of the Viet Cong attack against the embassy "failed because they were never able to enter the chancery building."

He paid tribute to the Marine and military policemen who died defending the embassy.

"The attacks have been largely against civilians and civilians have been the greatest sufferers. . . ." Bunker said.

# New A37 'Ideal' in Viet Test

S&S Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has completed combat tests on the A37 "Tweety Bird" and declared it ideally suited for the type of ground support that troops need in South Vietnam.

Col. Heath Bottomly, a veteran of 23 years with Air Force fighters, went so far as to call the "Tweety Bird" tests in Southeast Asia the most exciting adventure in aviation last year.

Although the A37, a converted T37 primary trainer, is not the best airplane for all forms of air war, in the "permissive environment" of Southeast Asia — that is where there is no enemy air opposition — it is tops for many reasons, he said.

The Air Force reached this conclusion after an evaluation called Combat Dragon, which required the formation of a special squadron of 25 A37s and 350 men, plus an evaluation team of 48 computer specialists.

Bottomly reported interim findings of Combat Dragon squadron to Pentagon newsmen. They showed, he said, that the A37 is a simple aircraft to fly and maintain under the worse possible conditions and excellent to use in counterinsurgency and close air support missions.

In 5,000 sorties during a four-month period the A47 proved to be ideal for close air support, armed escort of Army convoys, combat air patrol, forward air control, armed reconnaissance and "truck bustin'" night interdiction missions, he said.

The A37s were also tops in tests under emergency combat and austere base operations conditions where maintenance and repair facilities were limited, he said.

Bottomly also said that at the time the squadron went to Vietnam last summer the testers expected to be shot out of the sky by enemy ground fire because the A37 lacks armor protection. Instead only 13 aircraft received minor hits and none was lost, he said.

## Knowlton Named To 9th Inf. Post

LONG THIANH, Vietnam (IO) — Brig. Gen. William A. Knowlton, 47, of West Springfield, N.H., has assumed the duties of assistant commander of the 9th Inf. Div.

Knowlton replaces Brig. Gen. William B. Fulton, who has been assigned to Ft. Polk, La., as deputy commanding general. Knowlton has been in Vietnam since Aug., 1966.

## Enemy Reports Cite Woes

# No Ben Caseys in VC Hospitals

By WILLIAM F. COLLINS  
S&S Staff Correspondent

SAIGON — If Charlie gets wounded he may well wish he'd been waxed.

Chances are he'll never recover. And it's almost a sure thing that a Viet Cong or North Vietnamese soldier who finds himself in a Communist field dispensary for any reason is going to be even hungrier and less comfortable than he was scrounging around in the South Vietnamese jungles.

Three enemy documents, captured by GIs from the 198th Light Inf. Brigade in Quang Nam province and recently made public, tell a grim story of life in a VC dispensary.

"The number of wounded . . . has increased three times. Food is scarce. We don't have enough to sustain the wounded . . . Our personnel are frequently sick, especially during the hot weather. . . ."

This is the gist of an undated situation report from a Communist dispensary somewhere near the town of Ky Tra in the hills southwest of Da Nang.

The other two reports, dated last Sept. 21 and apparently alluding to the same dispensary, are just as gloomy.

"During the (U.S.) sweep operations we became confused because we could not contact higher echelons," said one report. "We wanted . . . direc-

tions concerning . . . the increasing number of our wounded, the shortage of rice . . . and the lack of safe trenches . . . Five of our personnel, including Nam, the chief, were wounded.

"Remember that our medics, as well as the wounded, have been confused by enemy search and destroy missions."

The third captured document discloses near panic:

"Since the enemy sweep operations were initiated, most of the war-wounded and our personnel have gone without food.

"The enemy is now stationed at Dong Linh to conduct his continuous raids, searches

and ambushes. We do not know whether he has located our positions."

In this picture of hunger, misery and fright, the most telling item was in the undated report.

Over a four-month period (February through May) last year, the Communist dispensary reported 93 sick and wounded soldiers treated. Only 24 were listed as discharged, most of them sick cases.

Among the wounded Communists, the report said, the recovery rate was demoralizingly low. During the dispensary's busiest month, May, less than one Communist soldier out of five got better.

# Marines Outfox Sleepy Captors, Escape

DA NANG, Vietnam (ISO)— Two Marines recently made a daring escape through mountainous jungle terrain after being held prisoner 16 days in a North Vietnamese Army rest camp northwest of Da Nang.

The Marines, Cpl. Steven D. Nelson, 19, of Elkhart, Ind., and Lance Cpl. Michael R. Roha, 20, of National City, Calif., were members of Combined Action Platoon Hotel-7, which came under heavy attack by an estimated 150-200 NVA regular forces at 3:30 a.m., Jan. 7.

At a press conference last week at the Combat Information Bureau, Da Nang, the Marines, one still in shower shoes due to swollen feet suffered in the ordeal, told of their capture and ultimate escape.

"Everyone was sleeping except for the perimeter guards when all hell broke loose," Nelson said.

"The enemy was swarming through the compound throwing satchel charges and fragmentation grenades at everybody," he continued. "It was hard to tell the popular force troops from the NVA.

"We could hear them yelling, 'Surrender, no die!'"

Thinking that the two Marines were the only ones left in the compound, Nelson ran to the radio room to check on support units and artillery — but the communications center was aflame.

"I was running back to the bunker to inform Roha about the lack of communications when six NVA jumped me and wrestled me to the ground," Nelson said. "At first I tried to escape but they held my hands and legs and finally tied my hands behind my back."

Meanwhile, Roha heard someone breathing heavily outside of the bunker. He looked out to see a Marine, leg severed from the knee.

"I ran out to help him," said Roha. "I took off my belt and

tied a tourniquet around his leg. "I knew he would die in a matter of minutes if he didn't get some medical aid so I ran for the corpsman.

"I ran past a group of men I thought were popular force troops. They ordered me to stop but I ran on, searching for the corpsman.

"My search came to a sudden halt when an NVA officer stuck a pistol in my stomach. They tied my hands and took me to where they had Nelson — we were prisoners."

After the battle had ended, the NVA took Nelson and Roha away from the compound and burned it.

Both Marines were barefoot. Nelson was clad only in undershorts and Roha had a T-shirt and trousers.



CPL. STEVEN D. NELSON

The enemy moved the two Marines down Highway 1 through a village that the CAP unit had helped pacify. Villagers peered through openings of the thatched huts at the two prisoners, apparently afraid to help.

After a mile on the roadway, the enemy led their captives west towards the mountains.

"On our way through the mountains they treated us as we would an enemy prisoner," said Roha. "When our feet were in too bad condition to walk, two of our captors gave us their slippers and in other places they helped us cross rivers and climb steep hillsides."

After walking for about three miles, the group arrived at what later proved to be an enemy mountain rest area. There was one thatched hut with a large bunker underneath where the Marines were imprisoned.

"The hideout seemed like a recreation center or transient facility," said Nelson. "There were new troops coming and going constantly."

The NVA treated Roha for cuts and blisters on his feet.

"We received almost as good treatment as any of their soldiers," said Roha. "Our basic food was rice cooked in salt water, but we could get as much as we wanted."

The Marines, on the alert for a means of escape, noticed that the longer they were there, the more relaxed the enemy soldiers became.

"The guards were getting lazy," stated Nelson. "They set up a hammock and when one of their leaders wasn't around, the guard would go to sleep.

"They did not understand anything we said and once brought in an interpreter, but his English was so bad we could not understand it.

"Continuously we talked of ways to escape, but could not do anything until Roha's feet got well enough so he could move."

Finally the opportunity came.



LANCE CPL. MICHAEL R. ROHA

"It was just after our noon meal," Roha said. "We knew they wouldn't be in to check on us until the evening.

"The guard, as usual, had fallen asleep. We just crept by him and were on our way to freedom."

"Following an unused trail," Roha said, "we made our way through the jungles.

"Coming to the top of a mountain we could see the ocean (South China Sea) in the distance. We knew that the highway ran parallel and this would be our only chance of survival."

On Jan. 23, approximately 23 hours after the Marines had escaped, they wandered through the perimeter of the 1st Bn., Fifth Marine Reg.

"Those tents were the most beautiful sight I had ever seen in my life," said Roha. "I got a big lump in my throat and tears began flowing down my cheeks. I never thought I'd be so happy to see a bunch of Marines."

They were taken to Da Nang for medical treatment and recovery.

Both escapees were meritoriously promoted to their present ranks by Lt. Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr., commanding general, III Marine Amphibious Force. They are to be reassigned in the U.S. soon.

# Crippled Orphan Wins Fleet of Friends

UDORN RTAFB, Thailand (OI) — This base was "captured" recently—by a cute little orphan named Agnes.

Agnes is a 6-year-old Thai girl who came to the base to be flown to Bangkok for medical treatment. Before leaving, she managed to captivate every airman she met.

Agnes came to Udorn's St. Mary's Orphanage as a baby. Polio had crippled her left leg and confined her to crutches.

Two doctors at the 432nd U.S.

Air Force Dispensary hoped that in Bangkok she could be fitted with a brace to make walking easier and to determine if an operation would help her.

Efforts to have Agnes flown to Bangkok were started by Doctors (Capt.) Leslie W. Nesmith, 27, and Michael G. Murphy, 29. After almost a week of coordination, the doctors arranged to have the girl flown to Bangkok on an Air Force plane.

The day came and after a

tearful farewell at the orphanage, Agnes, her nurse traveling companion and Nesmith headed for the base. There they learned the plane would be delayed a few hours.

The hours passed quickly for Agnes and the hospital staff. The girl impressed everyone with a show of her agility on crutches and her bright smile. She was treated to a movie and refreshments.

Again departure came and again the plane was delayed,

this time until noon the next day. The doctors had no choice but to return Agnes to the orphanage for the night.

The next day she arrived again to see the aircraft waiting on the 6th Aerial Post ramp.

She was helped into the aircraft by her many new friends and took her seat.

As the plane prepared to take off, one airman voiced the unanimous feeling of those who had met her: "Good-bye, Agnes. Please come back soon."

# Frantic Battle Saves Embassy in Saigon

(Continued From Page 1)  
 the tall, graying U.S. Mission coordinator, George Jacobson, a veteran of nine years in Vietnam and a retired Army colonel. Hearing heavy weapons fire in the embassy grounds below, he grasped the only weapon he had, an M26 grenade, and waited.

At 2:53 a.m. in the floodlit embassy lobby, Sgt. Ronald W. Harper of Cambridge, Minn., the senior Marine guard, was idling away the hours before dawn.

A few seconds later a Viet Cong sapper dropped a grenade through the smashed embassy window. Soon afterwards another rocket smashed through the door.

Rockets fired from across the road tore four jagged holes in the concrete lattice-work facade of the building. Bullets tore into the scalloped portico.

One Marine guard in the embassy fell dead and seven others, including Harper, were wounded, the sergeant only lightly. Two Vietnamese embassy drivers were cut down by bullets.

In his two-story frame house 50 feet from the embassy, Jacobson casually talked over the telephone to his friends and superiors.

Phone lines to the guards in the embassy were cut but he knew that one Marine was wounded seriously and needed evacuation, that one was dead, and that the handful of civilians working late in the upstairs floors were still safe.

The Viet Cong, meanwhile, searched in darkness for another entrance to the building. The cherrywood doors of the main entrance, although battered by rockets and grenades, held fast.

One part of the Viet Cong force was trying to hold off the American relief troops with grenades and small arms fire while the other part looked for a road piece to plant explosives.

Pfc. Paul Healey of Holbrook, Mass., called from his U.S. military police patrol, was crawling up near the outer wall. He lost one buddy killed, then another, and he was pinned down.

Other military police had sealed an apartment house opposite the embassy and their heavy fire into the embassy garden cut down some of the sappers.

Capt. Robert O'Brien, 36, of Marshfield, Mass., commander of a fresh U.S. Marine guard unit, decided a counterattack in

the darkness would be too costly.

By radio, he asked those inside the embassy if they could hold out until dawn. They said they would try.

But the wounded Marine needed immediate evacuation. A helicopter was called to land on the heli-pad on the embassy roof.

At 5:30 a.m. its bright floodlights picked out the pad but the Viet Cong drove it away with a fusillade from the ground.

Fifteen miles away a battalion from the "Screaming Eagles," the 101st Airborne Div., was seeking Viet Cong sappers who had infiltrated the Bien Hoa air base.

Maj. Hillel Schwartz, 33, of Tacoma, Wash., newly arrived in Vietnam, was called urgently to his field radio and told his first helicopter assault in Vietnam would be against his own embassy.

Crouched outside the embassy, Healey and a score of others were quietly given the order to move.

"My job was to open the front gate and get inside," Healey said. He slammed against it with his shoulder and he was inside, sprawled on the dewy grass.

Schwartz and two platoons of his "Screaming Eagles" paratroopers roared over the embassy roof but again the Viet Cong opened up with heavy fire and Schwartz had to turn away.

As grenades and automatic weapons fire poured out at Healey and his buddies, they presumed that the Viet Cong had occupied the lower floors of the embassy building. Not so, Harper said later: "They tried to get in, they nearly got in. But in the end they did not make it."

By 8 a.m. the military policemen had cautiously occupied the 30-foot wide lawn between the embassy building and the outside fence and were preparing to enter the building.

With the outside grounds apparently clear, the troop-laden helicopters were called back.

From the first chopper, Schwartz and six other paratroopers leaped to the roof. Eight seconds later the helicopter was gone and another was hovering in. It was a perfect assault in the most unusual circumstances of the war, but too late for the kill. Moving down through the six-story structure, the paratroopers found no resistance.



South Korean students and citizens burn an effigy of North Korean Premier H. Sung Kim in front of the Seoul City Hall during anti-Communist rallies Wednesday. (S&B)

## MACV Knew Enemy's Plan

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The White House said Wednesday, the American Command in Saigon had "advance information" on the actual day the Viet Cong would launch its coordinated attacks across South Vietnam.

George Christian, President Johnson's news secretary, said information collected by American and Vietnamese intelligence was to the effect that terrorist activities would begin in South Vietnam at the start of Tet, the lunar New Year, even though the Communists had proclaimed a truce-fire for the holiday period.

The President met Wednesday with Democratic and Republican leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services and Appropriations committees.

(Continued From Page 1)

prevailing mood in Seoul. An Associated Press report, based on a random poll of Seoul citizens, said, "There was a lot of talk about too much talk by the United States at the present time." A bank clerk said about the Pueblo seizure and other incidents, "Action, that's all the Communists ever understand."

Lee Byung Do, vice director of the ROK Central Intelligence Agency, was quoted in a UPI report as saying the U.S. should blast all major North Korean cities with massive air strikes. Lee said a raid on Wonsan, where the Pueblo was taken after the seizure, would be inadequate and might provoke a North Korean invasion.

ROK Foreign Minister Choi Kyu Hah, according to AP, said his government "categorically

opposed" any American moves to place the main emphasis of the current crisis on the Pueblo and less on other Communist moves.

There was a one-day lull in hostilities and flare-ups along the demilitarized zone during Lunar New Year's Day, AP reported, but by late Tuesday four separate infiltration attempts had been repulsed by 2nd Inf. Div. troops.

## Bombing Target That Talks Back

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (UPI)—The Waikato Skindrivers Club has complained that the New Zealand Air Force had been using them for bombing practice.

The club said one plane dropped five bombs around their launch as they swam near volcanic White Island. No injuries were reported.

The Air Force said it was investigating.

## World Weather

USAF Weather Central			
TOKYO AREA			
Friday: Fair; High 48			
TEMPERATURES			
Jan. 31			
Bangkok	H 1	Naha	H 1
Chitose	91 75	Savon	61 55
Guwahati	13 4	Seoul	28 10
Hokkaido	89 77	Taipei	59 52
Manila	34 32	Tokyo	43 34
	88 68		
	H L		H L
Albany	38 34	I A	61 41
Albuquerque	55 27	Louisville	55 40
Anchorage	43 34	Melbourne	104 77
Atlanta	69 44	Memphis	62 54
Birmingham	68 48	Moscow	23 19
Bismarck	32 4	N. Orleans	72 53
Boise	38 33	N.Y.	42 36
Butte	40 33	Omaha	41 33
Chicago	35 32	Osaka	40 12
Cincinnati	49 40	Paris	48 39
Cleveland	36 34	Phila.	49 39
Denver	58 17	Phoenix	70 42
Des Moines	44 14	Pittsburgh	42 36
Detroit	36 30	Port. O.	39 29
Duluth	18 17	Reno	37 30
Fairbanks	-15 22	Richmond	70 43
Fort Worth	31 24	Singapore	87 74
Fort Worth	56 49	St. Louis	39 34
Frankfurt	62 59	St. Paul	36 2
Honolulu	79 62	Salt Lake	48 35
Houston	76 64	S. Antonio	71 54
Indianapolis	41 37	San Diego	59 41
Jackville	77 46	San Fran.	49 45
Japan	88 72	Seattle	38 29
Kansas City	38 24	Shreveport	68 62
K. Lumpur	71 72	Sydney	81 69
Los Vegas	59 50	Tucson	72 48
London	54 44	Wash.	68 41

# 5,000 Communists Die in Attacks

(Continued From Page 1)  
 fields and other military installations.

South Vietnamese authorities said 600 Viet Cong were killed in Saigon alone in less than two days of fighting.

The Communists captured part of Hue, the old imperial capital 400 miles north of Saigon, and seized control of half of Kontum in the central highlands. Two other major cities along the coastline in the north, Nha Trang and Qui Nhon, came under fresh mortar attacks and ground probes for the third straight day.

President Nguyen Van Thieu declared martial law throughout the nation in the wake of the Wednesday attacks against the U.S. Embassy and military and civilian installations from Hue to the Mekong Delta.

The U.S. Command reported shortly after midnight that the situation in Saigon was under control, but soon afterward the Viet Cong blew up a power station in the Cholon section and

attacked two national police stations there.

The two police stations in Cholon were attacked within 30 minutes of each other with 40 to 50 Viet Cong blowing away with small arms and machine guns, informants said.

There were several minor attacks on U.S. installations in Saigon, where at least 12 U.S. soldiers and Marines were killed in fending off a guerrilla onslaught at the U.S. Embassy and other installations Wednesday.

The U.S. Command announced that 45 U.S. soldiers had been killed and 313 wounded in the last 24 hours of fighting in the Saigon area but outside Saigon itself.

In the western suburbs, 300 Viet Cong attacked the headquarters of the South Vietnamese 25th Inf. Div.

"It is felt that we now have the initiative and that we are no longer reacting to enemy-initiated actions but are seeking out the enemy," the U.S. Command said at 12:30 a.m.

But small-arms fire still sounded, there were fires in the

outskirts, and parachute flares lit the night sky, where roving fighter-bombers and helicopter gunships lashed at the enemy.

Communist mortars hammered the big U.S. airfield, the 1st Field Force Artillery headquarters and the 5th Special Forces headquarters at Nha Trang, on the coast 100 miles northeast of Saigon, in another phase of a Red drive launched Tuesday at the outset of the greatest of the Vietnamese holidays, the lunar new year Tet.

While claiming a heavy toll on allied installations, the Communist high command sacrificed manpower at an unusual rate. Rows of guerrilla dead in Saigon, Da Nang and other centers testified to the allied reaction.

Military spokesmen said allied forces had killed 2,643 Communist troops across the country in the 48 hours up to noon Wednesday, more than are usually killed in a week.

Preliminary reports said 68 Americans and 78 South Vietnamese soldiers died in the action, which would mean the Red detachments were losing 10 men

for every one of the allies they killed. But countless civilians also perished in the fighting.

Damage to military installations and aircraft and to civilian centers ran into many millions of dollars, just how much to wait later inventory.

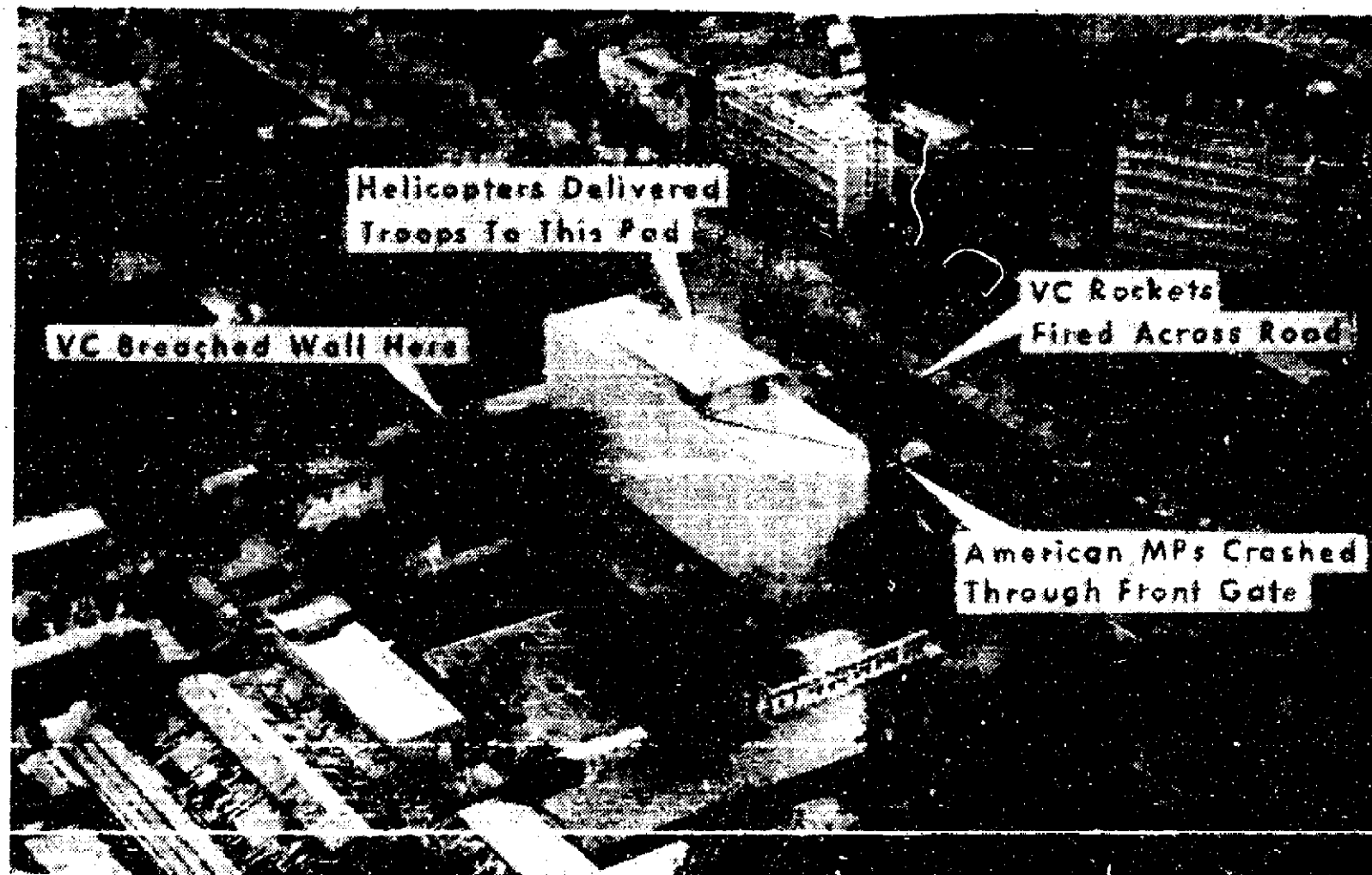
Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commander of U.S. forces in Vietnam, said he believed the attacks were a "diversionary effort to draw attention from the northern part of the country," the hotspot sector below the Demilitarized Zone.

Enemy snipers operated at one time Wednesday night as close as 200 yards from Westmoreland's headquarters, the new "Pentagon East" at Tan Son Nhut airbase northwest of Saigon. U.S. Army helicopter gunships worked by the light of parachute flares to erase that threat.

U.S. military policemen and paratroopers of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division joined in destroying a 20-man Viet Cong suicide squad which had held part of the compound of the U.S. Embassy for six hours starting about 3 a.m. Wednesday.



U.S. mission coordinator George Jacobson killed a Viet Cong during gun duel on second floor of Embassy compound house. (AP)



U.S. EMBASSY IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON WAS SCENE OF HEAVY FIGHTING WEDNESDAY BETWEEN U.S. TROOPS AND TERRORISTS. (AP)



MP TELLS GEN. WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND HOW U.S. TROOPS FOUGHT VC SUICIDE SQUAD AT EMBASSY. (AP)

# A New Vietnam Battleground— The American Embassy in Saigon



SAIGON POLICEMAN LIES DEAD BESIDE MOTORBIKE AS VIETNAMESE TROOPS BATTLE TERRORISTS. (AP)



TWO SOLDIERS KILLED IN EMBASSY BATTLE LIE IN FOREGROUND AS MPS BATTLE VC NEAR U.S. CONSULATE. (AP)



HELICOPTER DROPS TROOPS ON ROOF OF U.S. EMBASSY DURING BATTLE. (AP)