

Reds Scoff at Demands

FREE SHIP OR ELSE, U.S. TELLS N. KOREA



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10¢

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345 Korea Bureau

PANMUNJOM, Korea—The U.S. government Wednesday warned North Korea to return the U.S. Navy vessel Pueblo and crew intact or bear the consequences.

Rear Adm. John V. Smith, senior United Nations Command member, delivered the stern message to North Korean senior spokesman Maj. Gen. Chung Kook Park at a meeting of the Armistice Commission here. The Pueblo was 18 nautical miles from land when "criminally boarded and seized," Smith said.

But Park ignored the demand, saying "Your side is making a senseless allegation after committing open aggression."

Park claimed that 80 U.S. troops aboard the ship were captured alive by Communist patrol boats after the intelligence ship "violated North Korean coastal waters." The Pueblo reportedly carried a crew of 82.

Smith told Park that "in the interest of complying with laws and customs of nations, it is necessary that your regime do the following:

1. Return the vessel and
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Soviets Refuse to Step In

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and other top administration sources pressed the word Wednesday that Russia has opened U.S. pleas to act as go-betweens with North Korea in settling the Pueblo dispute.

Officials told newsmen "all appropriate diplomatic channels" were being pursued but they did not rule out the use of force.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk called the North Korean seizure of the U.S. Navy intelligence ship "an act of war."

He advised the North Koreans to "cool it" and said they would be "well advised to pull back here."

Rusk said the United States intends to get back the ship which, with its 82 crewmen, was forced to a North Korean port. Rusk declined to talk about what action the U.S. may take. The Russian diplomatic position (Continued on Back Page, Col. 1)

Romney Asks \$1.3 Bil.

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Gov. George Romney has proposed a record \$1.3 billion budget to the Michigan Legislature. The proposed budget emphasizes anti-crime and civil rights issues.



Rear Adm. John V. Smith (right), senior UNC delegate to the Armistice Commission, demands return of the USS Pueblo at the

commission meets in Panmunjom. North Korean senior member, Maj. Gen. Chung Kook Park, sits at left. (AP Radiophoto)

Thief Counts His Spoils

WESTBURY, N.Y. (AP)—Robert Bredin, 38, had just locked up the Westbury Station farm store where he works as night manager when the gun in an emerged from the shadows.

"Drop it," the handkerchief-masked bandit ordered, gesturing at the brown paper bag Bredin was carrying. Then the gunman grabbed the bag and ran.

Bredin told Nassau County police the bag contained trash he had intended to dump in the garbage can.

10,000 N. Viets Sneak South; All-Out Offensive Feared

SAIGON (AP) — North Vietnam has sent a new division of 10,000 men into South Vietnam to launch a major offensive aimed at wiping out American forces along the northwestern frontier, U.S. senior officers said Wednesday.

The new division was identified as the North Vietnamese 394th Div. which infiltrated into western Quang Tri Province,

South Vietnam's northernmost province that fronts the Demilitarized Zone on the north. Laos on the west and the South China Sea coast on the east.

The new division gives the North Vietnamese at least three full divisions and possibly a fourth along South Vietnam's northern frontier. This amounts to anywhere from 31,000 to 40,000 troops, not counting non-division

support troops, U.S. officers said.

One U.S. officer quoted a North Vietnamese lieutenant from the new division, who turned himself in, as saying that an offensive against South Vietnam's two northernmost provinces which would "destroy American forces" was planned. "A victory would be followed
(Continued on Back Page, Col. 2)

Surgeon Digs Live Shell From GI's Abdomen

SAIGON (AP) — The young Navy doctor could hear the hoarse whistle and loud slam of mortar rounds crashing into the combat base at Khe Sanh. What worried him most, however, was the one he had to dig for rather than duck.

There it was—a metallic object thrusting from the abdomen of a wounded Marine.

The object was part of the warhead of an 82mm Communist mortar shell, that might explode at any time. A piece of metal nearly 3½ inches across and 4 inches deep, it had buried itself in the abdomen of Pfc. Robert Mussari, 19, of Scranton, Pa., during a Communist attack Sunday morning.

"I could hardly believe my eyes when they brought him in," said the doctor, Lt. Edward Feldman, 26, of Forest Hills, N.Y.

"I pulled back part of the big field dressing and saw a metal pipe just sticking out of his abdomen. There had been some bleeding, but the shell must have been scorching hot when it hit him. It had partly cauterized the wound and bits of his skin, tissue and bandage were stuck to it like glue.

"When I finally grasped what the problem was, I remembered the famous operation nearly two years ago in Vietnam in which a live shell had been removed from a soldier in a field operation."

When Mussari was hit, other Marines carried him to the battalion aid station. But the medical tents were on fire and the electric power had been cut by the shelling.

Feldman and his assistant, Chief Hospitalman Richard Asquith, 35, of Atlantic Beach,

Fla., and their crew of Navy corpsmen quickly shifted the emergency operating center to a large sand-bagged bunker.

Huddled in the far corner of the dark bunker, Feldman quickly gave Mussari morphine to kill the pain. He sent someone to get a Marine engineer who might know how to handle the shell with the least chance of setting it off.

Staff Sgt. Ronald Sniegowski, 30, of San Clemente, Calif., reached the bunker within minutes. But Sniegowski, with only a small part of the metal showing, was unable to determine positively what it was.

He suspected it was part of a delayed action shell that normally blows up 2½ hours after impact. An hour and three quarters already had gone by.

Feldman ordered Asquith to

clear all the other wounded and all of the corpsmen not needed out of the bunker.

"Then I had them build a little wall around Mussari, sandbags five layers high," Feldman explained. "I remembered from the earlier story how the Army doctor had made a window in a wall of sandbags to operate through and I wanted to do that, too, by making a hole in the wall of the bunker. But there just wasn't time and shells were still landing outside."

Feldman's assistant posted himself at the bunker entrance to keep everybody out.

"Like everybody else," said Feldman, "I was wearing helmet and field jacket. But I was going to have to lean over the sandbags to operate on this man on the ground and I was afraid the helmet might fall off and

hit him. So I took it off and I took the flak jacket off, too. If anything happened, it wasn't going to help me at that range and I needed every possible freedom of movement."

"I am not sure, but I think the operation itself took only five to ten minutes."

"Finally, it was loose. I looked at Ski—that's what we called the sergeant (Sniegowski) and I started to lift the shell out by the projection, holding down the torn tissue with my left hand. Ski held and steadied the base as it came up, then he took it all and carried it outside. What a relief. It was almost anti-climax."

Unable to positively identify the object while mortars and rockets were still slamming in to the base, Sniegowski covered it with sandbags so he could examine it later.

Pacification Plan Progressing: Komer

SAIGON (UPI)—Robert W. Komer, the U.S. pacification chief in Vietnam, Wednesday said his multi-million dollar program to win the allegiance of South Vietnam's peasants can no longer be called "stalled or a failure or faltering."

"At least, I think, we're up from a crawl to a walk and next

year maybe we'll get up to a trot," said Komer at a news conference in which he summed up last year's accomplishments in the vital program.

"I think it was a year of forward movement on the pacification front even though it was somewhat less productive than we would hope," Komer said.

"We gave more high level attention to pacification than in any previous year. We invested more manpower and resources in it and I think the results show it."

The official, who holds the rank of ambassador, said about 67 per cent of the total population—some 11.5 million people out of a total of 17.2 million—are now living either in the secure cities and towns or "under reasonably good security in the countryside."

This amounts to a 4.8 per cent increase in "secure population" during 1967.

Komer said the increase in the number of people under government control was not all due to the pacification program but was due to a considerable extent to a significant number of refugees and people who came to the cities for better jobs and security.

Komer described pacification as "a pretty slow and undramatic process of extending security, providing assistance to the people in the countryside, showing that the government of Vietnam cares for the people, taking care of refugees and the like."

"Pacification is 99 per cent Vietnamese business," Komer said. "The United States just provides advice and we're also the bankers."

Casualties

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

KILLED IN ACTION

Army
SSgt. Billy G. Collins, Phoenix, Ariz.
SP4 Eugene S. Hicks, Arcadia, Calif.
Pfc. David Donnelly, Dekalb, Ill.
SP4 Richard L. Miller, Ray, Ind.
Sgt. Henry W. Gorman, Philadelphia, Pa.
Sgt. Michael P. Oliver, Butler, Tenn.
Psgt. Hubbard D. Cobb, Arlington, Tex.
Psgt. Roy W. Edwards, Garland, Tex.
Pfc. Gary H. Grubb, Fairmont, W.Va.

Navy

HN Dennis K. Rice, Phoenix, Ariz.
HM3 Larry D. Wells, Wray, Colo.
HM3 Darrell C. Linn, Ocean Springs, Miss.

Marine Corps

Pfc. Mark A. Lamprecht, Douglas, Ariz.
LCpl. Robert J. Molossi, Daly City, Calif.
LCpl. Jackie R. McElwee, Sidney, Ill.
Pfc. Donald E. Monkman, Bloomington, Ill.
Pfc. Douglas D. Holland, Inwood, Iowa.
Pfc. Joseph C. Wiar Jr., Royal Oak, Mich.

Air Force

Capl. Sam F. Beach Jr., Myrtle Beach, S.C.

DIED OF WOUNDS

Navy
GMG3 Dell R. Claiborne, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Marine Corps

LCpl. Daniel M. Medina, San Diego, Calif.
Pfc. William P. Backer, Mandan, N.D.
Pfc. Stephen P. Barker, Bremerton, Wash.

MISSING TO DEAD—HOSTILE

Army
Pfc. Lee R. Birden, Oakland, Calif.
Pfc. Gerald M. Pina, Monterey Park, Calif.
SP4 Ennis E. Crow, Lovington, N.M.

MISSING IN ACTION

Army
Cpt. John F. Young.
SFC Earl R. Biggs.
SFC Frank C. Parrish.
Sgt. Thomas R. Watts.
SP4 Willie A. Watkins.
Pfc. Francis E. Cannon.
Pfc. William D. Parl.

Marine Corps

Capt. William D. Moreland.

RETURNED TO MILITARY CONTROL

Air Force
Maj. Pollard H. Mercer Jr.
Maj. Attilio Pedrolli.
1Lt. James E. Thompson.

DIED NOT AS A RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION

Army
SP4 John C. White, Winthrop, Mass.
Pfc. David L. Perket, Ferndale, Mich.
SFC Everard A. Davis, Laurelton, N.Y.
SP4 Larry T. Brent, Celtsburg, Pa.

MISSING TO DEAD—NON HOSTILE

Army
SP4 Thomas B. Griffin Jr., Dorchester, Mass.
WO Peter Kretzchmar, Philadelphia, Pa.
Cpt. Peter S. Kleinberg, Lewisburg, W.Va.



No Trinkets for Him

This 1st Air Cav. Div. trooper is not one to settle for small souvenirs. Returning from a search and destroy operation near Landing Zone Ross, 20 miles north of Chu Lai, he carries this Vietnamese drum as a memento.

(UPI)

60-Truck Viet Convoy Goes 690 Safe Miles

SAIGON (UPI)—An armed convoy of 60 Vietnamese army trucks Wednesday became the first convoy to drive all the way from Saigon to Quang Tri City—a distance of 690 miles—since 1965.

The truck, carrying food and Lunar New Year gifts from Vietnamese soldiers to their dependents in the northern part of the country, took eight days to make the trip up Highway 1, the country's main north-south artery. The Viet Cong had

closed the highway at various points in 1965.

The successful convoy operation was marred by an incident which occurred Tuesday when another convoy left Hue to greet the supply convoy as it made its way northward from Da Nang. One of the trucks in the welcoming convoy hit a Viet Cong mine. The truck was severely damaged and 22 soldiers were wounded.

The Viet Cong also opened up with mortar fire against the supply convoy.

Viet Reporting Is Good: Rusk

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Dean Rusk says the U.S. press is doing a complete—and generally objective—job of reporting the Vietnam war.

Rusk was asked about Vietnam news coverage, which has been criticized by some government officials, during a talk to the Senate Youth Forum Tuesday.

"I think that if you looked at the entire reporting you would find that it is being well reported," he said.

Viet Cong Free 2 Americans

SAIGON (AP) — U.S. officials announced Wednesday the Viet Cong have released two American servicemen taken prisoner in South Vietnam.

A spokesman identified the two as Marine Cpl. Jose Agosto Santos and Army Pvt. Luis Ortiz-Rivera. Agosto Santos was captured May 14, 1967, and Ortiz-Rivera on Dec. 21, 1966.

The spokesman said both men were released Tuesday near the coastal provincial capital of Tam Ky, 350 miles northeast of Saigon. He said they were taken to a hospital of the U.S. 1st Air Cav. Div. for treatment and will be evacuated shortly to the United States.

Laos Shuns Troop Aid

VIENTIANE, Laos (AP) — Despite a recent sharp stepup of communist military pressure in Laos, Premier Prince Souvanna Phouma says he does not want and will not ask for ground troops from the United States to help protect his country.

He indicated in an interview released Wednesday night that if other countries follow communist North Vietnam in sending ground forces to Laos he would carry out his threat to resign. Western diplomats believe him and say this would lead to disintegration of government forces in the country.

The premier said, however, if the worsening military picture leads to resumption of full scale hostilities here, the government would seek help from the United States, Britain, Russia and other powers that guaranteed Laos neutrality and independence in the 1962 Geneva conference.

2 Generals Due Shift to States

WASHINGTON (S&S) — New Stateside assignments for Brig. Gens. Morgan G. Roseborough and Charles W. Ryder Jr., both assistant division commanders in Vietnam, have been announced by the Army.

Roseborough, ADC of the 9th Inf. Div., will be transferred to the office of the deputy chief of staff for personnel at the Pentagon and Ryder, ADC of the 23rd Inf. Div. (Americal), is going to the infantry training center at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Air Unit Honored

CAN THO, Vietnam (IO) — The 221st Reconnaissance Airplane Co. was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation in a ceremony at the Soc Trang Army Airfield. Maj. Gen. Robert R. Williams, commanding officer of the 1st Aviation Brigade, presented the commendation to the officers and men of the 221st.

A unit of the 13th Combat Aviation (Delta) Bn., the 221st RAC has been in the Delta region since its inception in 1965. Flying an average 3,000 hours a month, the "Shotguns" fly aerial reconnaissance and surveillance missions over the 30,000-square-mile IV Corps Tactical Zone.

GI's Idea Saves Time And Cash

DI AN, Vietnam (IO) — Ingenuity and effort by a 1st Inf. Div. engineer has provided the 1st Engineer Bn. with a time- and money-saving mobile shop unit.

Pfc. Robert H. Henson, El Monte, Calif., seeking a solution for maintenance problems arising while his unit, B Co. was on field operations, converted a three-quarter-ton cargo trailer into a mobile shop van in one month.

The trailer, salvaged from the 701st Maintenance Bn., was taken to the B Co. motor platoon at Di An. Henson used his imagination to build the vehicle's equipment in his spare time.

"Extensive welding was necessary to convert the trailer," remarked Henson, indicating the large welding tanks secured to the trailer.

The unit, which is hauled to the field in a three-quarter-ton truck, has both oxygen and acetylene welding capabilities.

The trailer, which also contains a set of tools and drilling equipment, is powered by a three-kilowatt generator.

The outfit makes possible field maintenance formerly available only in base camp.

Lots of Cavities, Few Fillings

Airborne Roots Out VC Bunkers

PHOU VINH, Vietnam (IO) — "There are suspected Viet Cong positions near the rubber plantation you are to sweep," platoon leader 2nd Lt. Douglass L. MacClung, of Red Bluff, Calif., was informed.

Before the day was over, he and his squad from C Co., 3rd Bn., 187th Inf. (Airborne), were to find this was a definite understatement.

The squad of paratroopers from the 101st Airborne Division plantation along the Song Be River, south of their base camp at Phouc Vinh.

As the troops crossed a creek, they spotted a well-worn trail which they followed with increasing tension. Each trooper placed his M16 weapon to semi-automatic position.

Suddenly the trail widened into a clearing and exposed a hut from which a small figure darted into the thick jungle. The paratroopers were unable to fire in time.

"Careful examination revealed a ten-foot tunnel, six-feet deep and capable of holding a fire team of five men," MacClung said.

Spurred on by this discovery, the troops moved down the trail.

Two hundred meters farther, another fresh trail branched into it. The squad held up while point men Pfc. Thomas J. Terry, Uniontown, Ky., and Pfc. Robert F. Ballard, Houston, Tex., went ahead to investigate.

The two soldiers carefully rounded a bend in the trail. Less than 50 meters in front of them sat a lone Viet Cong in the process of cleaning his carbine. As they fired, he bolted for safety in the jungle.

The point men held their positions as the rest of their squad moved up. A careful search of the area revealed an elaborate

bunker system where they found a pistol belt, eight hand grenades, several clips of 7.62 rifle ammunition, 300 pounds of rice and two 60-millimeter mortar rounds.

Squad leader Sgt. Paul D. Shamp, Jacksonville, Fla., and Terry continued up the trail. They came upon a cluster of bunkers later determined to be a company base camp.

One of the bunkers contained a table with cooking utensils. It appeared to be a crude mess hall. They found 300 pounds of rice, three bombs and an old French carbine.

The paratroopers returned to their base camp with their findings.

Later they returned and discovered another bunker. It contained a warm fire, several hand grenades, 200 pounds of rice, a large amount of clothing, rain gear, carbine ammunition and tobacco.

Shamp went ahead and just over 200 meters away he spotted two Viet Cong. "They were just standing there in the trail talking," he said. "One had an AK47 and the other carried a carbine. I opened fire and knocked one down." Both soldiers disappeared into the jungle.

Again the squad of paratroopers proceeded along the trail and came on what MacClung described as a battalion-sized base camp.

"There was a bunker 50 meters long, ten meters wide and eight feet deep," MacClung said. "There were also three staff bunkers around the large one."

Shamp felt that this battalion base camp was surrounded by four company base camps similar to the one he and Terry had discovered earlier. MacClung believed that the Viet Cong intended to stay because they had already dug a permanent well and were in the process of finishing another.

The squad searched the smaller staff bunkers and grabbed all the documents they could find.

"Then," laughed MacClung, "we got out of there but before a large number of occupants returned."



Trailblazers, Viet Style

A mine detector team from the 1st Bn., 5th Inf., sweeping ahead of a tank during a search and destroy mission 75 miles northwest of Saigon during the 25th Inf. Div.'s Operation Yellowstone. (USA)

Mass VC Defections Reveal Morale Decay

LANDING ZONE BALDY, Vietnam (IO) — For the second time, the Viet Cong infrastructure of a village in the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cav. Div. area of operations has rallied to the Government of Vietnam en masse. The brigade is a part of the Americal Div.'s Operation Wheeler-Wallowa.

Thirty members of the infrastructure of Phu Dien village, near this brigade base camp 20 miles southwest of Da Nang, left their village to become Hoi Chanh. They were induced to leave by constant and effective Cavalry operations in the area and by their growing belief that they were on the losing side.

In addition, Phu Dien had been an early and successful target of early-morning cordon-and-search raids conducted by Cavalrymen and Vietnamese National Police. The raids, designed to root out the Viet Cong VC personnel, and the remaining infrastructure members saw that they would have to be con-

stantly on the run to avoid the cordons.

The mass Chieu Hoi was one of a number of indications of declining enemy morale in the 3rd Brigade area. Ralliers told government authorities that North Vietnamese officers informed them, "The people were with us before, but now they disappear or refuse to help us." Another soldier was warned before his unit moved to an area that, "The enemy has observation planes and helicopters flying constantly, and they seem to have artillery support wherever we appear."

Gen. Eckhardt In New Post

CAN THO, Vietnam (IO) — Maj. Gen. George S. Eckhardt has become senior adviser of IV Corps in the Mekong Delta.

Eckhardt was deputy commander of the II Field Force in Long Binh before coming to Can Tho to replace Brig. Gen. William R. Desobry.

IV Corps is an area made up of 16 provinces or sectors and more than 90 districts or sub-sectors. Corps headquarters is located in this city of some 80,000 residents.

Units serving in the corps include three ARVN divisions — the 7th, 9th and 21st — and Special Forces and 110,000 Regular and Popular Forces and Civilian Irregular troops.

Crossing Viet River Is Half of the Battle

DUC PHO, Vietnam (IO) — It isn't often that the infantry has to worry about such things, but 2nd Lt. Fred de Witt recently reported that no one in his platoon was seasick.

Just a few minutes before, D Co., 1st Bn., 35th Inf., had moved up to the Song Thu Bong River north of Chu Lai. They were to cross the river and pursue enemy troops known to be operating on the other side.

The mission was complicated though, when a bridge indicated on the map was found to be blown in half and impassable.

As Capt. George Davignon pondered the problem, he noticed six reed boats on a small island in the middle of the river. Summoning Sgt. Roger A. Smith, Davignon discussed his plan.

"The next thing I knew," said 1st Sgt. Thomas C. Mathis, "the two of them were swimming the river, naked as a bird's tail and with no weapons."

The pair clambered onto the island and spotted five Vietnamese hiding in a bunker. Startled by the attire—or lack of it—of their discoverers, the Vietnamese emerged from their shelter. After haggling a while over price, D Co. had an amphibious assault force.

The river crossing was completed and D Co. moved out in pursuit of the enemy.

2 VC Slain in Underwater Bunker

TAN TRU, Vietnam (IO) — Viet Cong soldiers will hide anywhere to elude 9th Inf. Div. soldiers hunting them in the Mekong Delta.

While searching a mangrove area along a river from which they had received enemy fire, two 2d Bn., 60th Inf., troops dis-

covered a small hut and found grenades, medical supplies and ammunition for several types of enemy rifles.

Sgt. Ross L. Dunn of Falmouth, Ky., and Sgt. Demeth P. Wilson of Portland, Ore., also noticed a raft-like platform on the river and they heard

sounds of splashing water. Dunn spied a VC, rifle in hand, jumping up from the water, and then another enemy soldier surfaced. Both were shot dead.

Investigation revealed that the raft-like platform was the roof of a concealed underwater bunker.

