

Some Colder

Partly cloudy and colder with chance of snow flurries today. Fair and cold tonight. Fair to partly cloudy and a little warmer Monday. Low tonight 15 to 20. High Monday near 40.

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CHINESE COMMUNISTS released this picture with captions that read: Chinese revolutionary youth and Red Guards embark on a long march to exchange revolutionary experiences. They are on the way to Peking. (Unifax)

Battle Near Da Nang Marines Kill 61 Cong

SAIGON, South Vietnam (AP) — A U. S. Marine company battled for 6½ hours against Viet Cong defending a hamlet 15 miles south of Da Nang and killed 61 of the enemy, a U. S. spokesman announced Sunday.

He said the 235 Leathernecks were bloodied and took moderate casualties in the fierce engagement Saturday.

The spokesman said the helicopter-borne company of Marines came under mortar and small arms fire while approaching the helicopter landing zone outside the hamlet.

The company then deployed in the hamlet, U. S. headquarters said, and "met sustained resistance from a large number of enemy."

The Marine raid was supported by mortar and artillery fire. U. S. headquarters said the Marine raiding party was helicopter-lifted out of the battle zone before nightfall, six hours and 35 minutes after they launched the raid.

In other ground operations, U. S. forces pushing through jungles of the Iron Triangle north of Saigon reported Sunday that Communist losses rose beyond 526

men in the week-old drive, the war's biggest.

U. S. headquarters reported scattered fights in the campaign 20 to 30 miles north of Saigon.

Headquarters also reported the number of villagers and peasants who have been evacuated from the Iron Triangle had risen to 5,500.

Near the Cambodian border, Viet Cong guerrillas and South Vietnamese civilian irregulars clashed late Saturday night, and a Vietnamese government spokesman said 26 Communist soldiers were killed.

War Picture: Tired People Moved Again

EDITORS NOTE—U. S. troops north of Saigon are conducting the largest American military operation of the Vietnam war. The operation also has important sociological and engineering aspects, as this dispatch from an Associated Press reporter at the scene illustrates.

By PETER ARNETT

THE IRON TRIANGLE, South Vietnam (AP)—Acres of tall rubber trees were devastated, and the trunks lay tangled across the ground as though flattened by a typhoon.

Along the rutted clay roads, thatched-roof homes burst into flames as troops methodically threw in fiery rags. Bulldozers were poised to tear down concrete structures.

Gathered at crossroads and at an assembly point on the winding Saigon River were crowds of Vietnamese huddled together, their pots and pans, bedding, family pictures and keepsakes packed into baskets and bags.

Candles Keep Burning

A small Buddhist shrine, its candles broken in transit to the river, continued to exhale clouds of incense across lowing cattle and sweating American officials and Vietnamese soldiery attempting to get yet another convoy moving south down the river.

The methodical thud of bursting artillery shells and the nearer cracks of sniper bullets added to these scenes of war.

The locale was 60 square miles of jungle and fields stretching from the base of the Iron Triangle, long used as a secret Communist meeting place, to the rubber plantations above the town of Ben Suc.

War Ebbs, Flows . . .

The war has ebbed and flowed through the region ever since Ngo Dinh Diem moved most of Ben Suc's population to refugee centers in the South in 1961 and replaced them with politically reliable refugees from North Vietnam.

These people left Ben Suc under Viet Cong pressure. The original inhabitants moved back, and as the years went by the Viet Cong built up a formidable political, military and social apparatus in the town that defied government attempts to dig it out.

With the U. S. Army's 1st Infantry Division permanently based to the east and northeast, the U. S. 25th Division to the south and southwest, and a brigade of the U. S. 4th Division to the northwest, it was just a matter of time before the Iron Triangle, Ben Suc, and the villages around it, would be completely evacuated for resettlement, then devastated in a move to drive the Viet Cong main force units north.

This week, the hammer fell with a suddenness that seemed to catch the people of Ben Suc completely off guard. The town was surrounded as U. S. armored and infantry columns swept into the Iron Triangle and the northern jungles.

Hanoi Issues Book

Use of Thai Bases Claimed

TOKYO (AP) — North Vietnam has published a book containing depositions by captured American and Thai fliers which Hanoi says show the extent of "collusion" between Thai leaders and the United States in conducting the Vietnam War.

One of the statements is attributed to Capt. Charles Graham Boyd of Wichita, Kan., who was shot down over Vinh Phuc on April 23, 1966. Another is attributed to Lt. Col. Robinson Risner of Tulsa, Okla., captured in Than Hoa on Sept. 16, 1965.

The Vietnam News Agency (VNA) said the depositions were included in the second part of the book recently published by the North Vietnamese foreign ministry.

In Washington, the Pentagon had no immediate comment.

VNA, Hanoi's official voice, broadcast highlights of the first part of the book, which repeated Communist charges that Thai officials allow U. S. planes to use Thai bases for bombing of North Vietnam.

The broadcast monitored in Tokyo claimed the second part gives "many evidences of U. S. aircraft taking off from bases in Thailand for bombing raids" on North Vietnam and the Communist-held part of Laos.

"These evidences included depositions by Thai and American air pirates captured in North Vietnam and maps showing flight routes" of bombing missions from Thai bases, VNA said.



A Boone County volunteer fire department member, Bill Kyger, fights brush fire. (Missourian Photo)

Fire Burns 50 Acres

A brush fire Saturday burned 45 to 50 acres of land owned by George Spencer, north of Vandiver Drive and East of Highway 63 North. The fire burned out of control from about 2:45 p.m. until it was put out at 4 p.m. by firemen from both the Columbia and the Boone County volunteer fire departments.

Capt. Floyd Noel, of the Columbia fire department, estimated

about 50 acres were burned. He said the fire started in a hollow tree atop a bluff above Bear Creek, but he was unable to name the cause.

Three trucks from the city department answered the call. Bill Westhoff, chief of the county department, was on the scene and called several of his men after he determined part of the fire had spread outside the city limits.

Air War Slackens As Dispute Brews

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hundreds of U.S. missions have been flown over North Vietnam since the dispute over American bombing of civilians erupted a month ago, but no more bombs have fallen near Hanoi.

This and other factors indicate that the fears of some mili-

tary men have been realized: the Johnson administration has decided to slow down, at least temporarily, the air war over North Vietnam.

The action apparently came in response to the worldwide controversy over the bombings near Hanoi last Dec. 13 and 14, although State Department officials have said repeatedly that the dispute has not affected U.S. bombing tactics against North Vietnam.

The subject is a sensitive one in the Pentagon, where all queries about American bombing tactics have brought this official answer: "We do not discuss targeting."

In private, Pentagon spokesmen argue that poor weather, and not administrative fiat, has curtailed missions near the North Vietnamese capital.

They point out that it now is monsoon season in North Vietnam and heavy cloud banks and rain are reported over Hanoi almost every day. It is U.S. policy that pilots must be able to see their military targets before dropping bombs in areas that are heavily populated.

But the Dec. 13 and 14 missions near Hanoi were staged in what officially was described as poor weather.

Council Due To Decide On Changes

The City Council is expected to decide Monday night whether to approve city charter amendments in time to have residents vote on them at the city election April 4.

Changes recommended by the charter revision committee last October included making the collector's and assessor's offices appointive rather than elective, changing the planning and zoning commission to an all-private citizens group and eliminating the two-year residency requirement for the city collector.

If the voters approve the amendments the same day an assessor and collector are voted into office, the new charter provision would take precedence, and the Council would decide what to do with the collector's and assessor's posts, city manager Don Allard said.

ALLARD HAS favored shifting the city assessor's duties to the county assessor and abolishing the office of city collector with its duties passing to the finance department.

If the Council decides to put the proposal on the April 4 ballot, it will have to call a special meeting later this month, since

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Tests Indicate Couple Died Of Asphyxiation

SHENANDOAH, Iowa (AP)—Laboratory tests showed that the deaths of a couple from St. Joseph, Mo., in a truck were caused by accidental carbon monoxide poisoning, the Page County medical examiner said Saturday.

The victims were found Friday night in the sleeper cab of a semitrailer grain truck parked at a Shenandoah truck stop.

Burton, a driver for the M&M Grain Co. of Worthington, Minn., had started to Swan City, Iowa, to pick up a load of grain. His wife went along.

They stopped for a nap Friday morning, and it was 12 hours before the deaths were discovered, police said.

Their children, Tina, 4, and Ronnie, 8 months, were left with a babysitter, Mrs. Robert Cook, in St. Joseph.

Mrs. Burton's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Glen Martin of Fulton, Mo.; and Burton's father is Jess J. Burton of Centralia, Mo.

The funeral will be at Fulton. The date has not been set.

The bodies were brought Saturday to Ballow Funeral Home, Centralia. Burton was the grandson of Mrs. Eddie Lewis, Centralia.

Happy Birthday Tomorrow

Larry Campbell, C. W. Edgar Jr., Mrs. Nellie Gerard, Mrs. Jack Hackett, Dean Hathman, Frank Lamb, Richie Lichte, Miss Mary Ella Lukehart, Mrs. Roy McQuerry, Mrs. O. D. Meyers, Mrs. Barry Ratliff, Donna Tallmage, Gary Turner, Mrs. Raymond A. Young, Miss Fran Forbes, Miss Mimsie Griesedieck

Pro-Mao Red Guard Seize Control of Peking Radio

By CHARLES R. SMITH,
B.J. '52

HONG KONG (UPI) —Red Guard followers of Chinese Communist Chairman Mao Tse-tung seized Peking Radio Saturday because its broadcasts were not following "Mao's thought." The move was seen as a bid to bring all mass media under control of the aging leader.

A broadcast said Red Guards seized the station because its broadcasts had been "suppressing Mao's thought and resorted to the anti-revolutionary line." Japanese correspondents in

Peking said Mao appeared seriously worried by the challenge to his rule but that he appeared strong enough to take counter action.

They also reported Saturday that President Liu Shao-chi, considered Mao's chief opponent in the Red Chinese power struggle, had openly defied the 73-year-old chairman by charging that Mao had wrongly accused him of subversive political activity.

Liu was reported to have demanded that his earlier "confession" of anti-Mao activities be withdrawn and that he

no longer be subjected to "self-criticism." The statement appeared in a wall poster in Peking, the Japanese correspondents said.

The statement was seen as a serious challenge to Mao.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said Saturday in a dispatch from Peking that Mao's wife, Mme. Chiang Ching, had told Red Guards to halt their attacks on five vice premiers and the political chief of the Chinese army.

She was quoted as describing the men in a speech last Tuesday as "good comrades."

Southern Demos May Form Bloc

WASHINGTON (AP) — Southern Democrats in the House are considering formally organizing as an independent bloc that would hold the balance of power on key votes.

The Southerners see in the present alignment of the House, with neither Republicans nor administration Democrats holding a majority, a ripe opportunity to make their conservative views prevail in the shaping of legislation.

"Neither side can win without us," says one of the principal Southern strategists. "It's up to us to make the most of this advantage."

The move, well into the planning stage, would bring into the open the Republican-Southern Democratic coalition that has long been a potent backstage factor in the House legislative process.

What the Southerners behind the move envision is an organization patterned on the Democratic Study Group, through which liberal House Democrats seek to influence the leadership.

The potential membership of such an organization is about 50 of the 247 Democrats in the House, enough to deny administration forces a majority, or to help the 186 Republicans make one.

It would keep the members informed on the status of bills—mainly President Johnson's domestic program, decide what would be in the best interest of the South and the tactics to achieve it, and negotiate directly with the Republicans on occasion.

Paris Talks Renew Era Of Good Will

By STEPHENS BROENING

PARIS (AP) — West German Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger ended his visit to France Saturday with the satisfaction of having patched up relations with President Charles de Gaulle's government.

Both French and German spokesmen declared themselves pleased with the results of Kiesinger's trip, and spoke of a new era in French-German cooperation.

On his return to Bonn Saturday night, Kiesinger told newsmen: "We have succeeded in reactivating the French-German treaty of cooperation in the spirit in which it was signed." The treaty was signed in 1963 by Konrad Adenauer, then chancellor, and De Gaulle.

Though it was clear there were major limitations to this cooperation, France and Germany agreed to put their major differences aside and work in areas where progress was possible.

One of the differences is the role of the United States in Europe as seen from Bonn and Paris.

The German view is that U.S. presence in Europe is necessary for stability. De Gaulle has been working to diminish U.S. influence on the Continent in the name of a "European Europe."

Czechs Hit by Raging Snowstorms
VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Czechoslovakia was hit Saturday by raging snowstorms which completely cut off several villages in western Slovakia and blocked road and rail traffic in northern Bohemia, the Czechoslovak news agency CTK reported.



ORVILLE HOBART