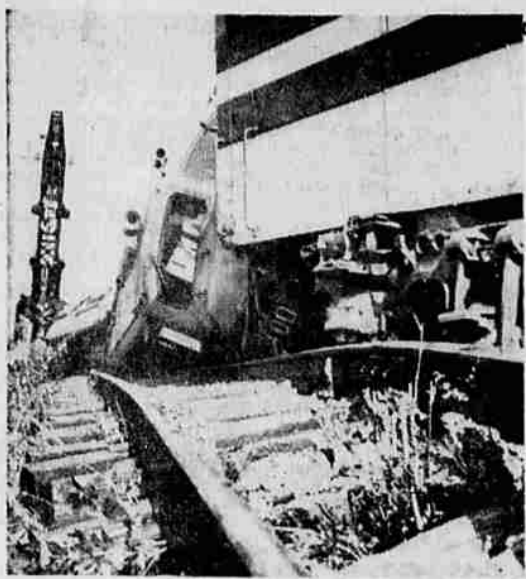


Pacification Objective of Vietnamese Forces Against Communists



TRAINS COLLIDE—The engine of the Wabash passenger train that went off the tracks lies on its side near Springfield, Ill. Fourteen passengers were sent to hospitals and damage estimates ran up to \$250,000. The passenger train was struck by a freight train that ran through a switch onto the main line. (UPI Telephoto)

Destruction of Food Supplies Among Goals

Editor's note: This is the second of three dispatches by UPI Saigon Bureau Manager Arthur J. Dommen, who spent several days with Vietnamese armed forces operating against Communist guerrillas.

By **ARTHUR J. DOMMEN**
Saigon, South Viet Nam — (UPI) — Inside a "war zone," the objective of Vietnamese armed forces operating against Communist guerrillas is spelled out in one word: pacification.

It is a word used formerly by the French army in its struggle against the Vietminh in this same region, and it is a word being used today by French generals in Algeria.

For the U Minh Ha war zone, pacification means the destruction of the Communist Viet Cong and their food supply. The effective strength of the Viet Cong in the zone is placed by officers conducting operations there at 250. It could be less, because, it is pointed out, the small cadres receive clandestine reinforcements from fishing boats that put in to shore under cover of night.

Observer Impressed
What impresses the observer most is the deserted aspect of the countryside through which Vietnamese marines moved with their rifles and grenade throwers at the ready. The enemy is rarely seen, and only occasionally heard.

By means of an apparently efficient intelligence network operating through villages that border the swamp, the Viet Cong are able to ascertain in advance the movements of government forces through the swamp and rice fields.

Yet evidence of recent human activity was clear in the area. The column with which this reporter moved by sampans uncovered more than one cache of rice in metal cans and bunches of freshly cut bananas.

These finds brought cries of delight from the rain-soaked troops, and they were bundled into the sampans for some future meal.

Thatched huts, rebuilt with new materials after the end of the last "pacification" operation, were burned to the ground. The theory is that without shelter, the Viet Cong and their supporters will be less likely to cultivate the new rice crop. Viet Nam, a land of rice surplus, finds it more profitable to deny the rice of these fields to the enemy, and thereby to itself, than to allow it to be harvested.

To New Villages
The inhabitants of the original settlements had long since been moved away from the fringes of the swamp. In that way, the government could be sure no one was left in the swamp but the Viet Cong.

But the task of putting up a house there is as simple as stringing a cover of leaves from the lantana tree on a stout wooden framework. According to the military, many of the huts have been rebuilt, month after month, following repeated expeditions of government troops through the area.

As the pale gray smoke of burning huts rose into the overcast sky, a short burst of small arms fire sounded from a thicket of trees on the horizon. "Warning shots," said the battalion commander.

"The Viet Cong avoid us whenever they can," Capt. Tran Van Nhut said. "It's difficult for us to engage them in an open fight."

Constant Menace
Booby traps are a constant menace. The Viet Cong leave a variety of devices behind to try to inflict casualties in any way without exposing themselves. In recent operations, government troops have encountered trip wires in the rice paddies, mined huts and flat wooden blocks armed with rusty nails practically invisible under water in the rice paddies.

The troops have been instructed to hold their fire until they actually see a target. But there are no targets in this sort of war where the advantage is with the surprise attack. And the size and slow advance of an army column make it difficult for it to surprise anyone.

A sentry posted on the edge of an encampment reported sighting a string of five sampans navigating along a canal half a mile away during a brief lift in the drizzle. The company commander ordered several rounds of 81-millimeter mortar fire on the canal. The dull thud of the exploding rounds echoed in the distance, drowning briefly the sound of the rain. The column moved forward



PRESIDENT'S EXPRESSIONS—President Eisenhower's expression varies as he holds the center of the "world stage" at the United Nations General Assembly. He denounced Soviet meddling in the Congo and called anew for disarmament talks. (UPI Telephoto)

Council Selects Executive Secretary

Salem — (UPI) — The planning director of Merced, Calif., Thursday was named executive secretary of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council here.

Robert F. Van Horn, 33, will succeed Richard Hartman, who resigned to take a county administrative position in Sacramento.

and small arms fire echoed sporadically over the watery waste. The column stuck to a single file through the knee-deep rice shoots to avoid stepping on mines and booby traps.

But under such conditions it's hard to catch up with guerrillas and engage them in an open fight.

The guerrillas use a strange assortment of arms. Captured Viet Cong weapons in the last few months included French MAS-36 rifles, British Sten guns, American carbines and BAR's, and arms of Czech manufacture. In addition, the Viet Cong uses many types of home-made weapons.

Wooden Rifles

The Viet Cong also are known to make use of dummy rifles carved out of wood to impress the local population with the strength of their armament.

"They use every trick in the book, as you Americans say," the company commander said. He added that his own unit had engaged in operations against the Viet Cong in other provinces of the Mekong river delta, and was composed of veterans, many of whom had their first taste of war in the fighting in the Indo-China war.

(Next: Guerrillas Tie Down Large Forces.)



GETS INDIAN HEADDRESS—Sen. John Kennedy, right, was presented with an Indian headdress on his arrival at Sioux Falls, S.D., by George Kills In Sight, a matchless. (UPI Telephoto)

Worker Crushed By Logging Trucks

Klamath Falls — (UPI) — Allen Coddington, about 32, was killed instantly Thursday when he was crushed between two logging trucks about 110 miles northwest of here on a logging road to Roseburg.

Coddington was part owner in the Iron Mountain Lumber Company and a partner in the Coddington-Fournier Logging Co., Beaver Marsh.

The accident apparently occurred as he was inspecting a load when one of the trucks backed up.

Coddington had been at Beaver Marsh for about three years. He formerly was a resident of Willamina.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and two sons. Funeral services will be held at Willamina.

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Better Sewage Plants Planned

Portland — (UPI) — The communities of Canby, West Linn and Newberg told the State Sanitary Authority Thursday they would be able to comply with demands for improved sewage facilities as ordered.

The authority ordered Oregon City to submit some kind of definite schedule not later than next Dec. 15. Authority members said Oregon City's plans were inadequate at present.

The authority held a hearing here on river pollution problems in the northern Willamette Valley. It had sent directives to the cities to enlarge sewage treatment plants

Salem asked for an extension of time. It is planning a larger plant than required by the authority's order, so it can serve outside-the-city areas in Marion and Polk counties.

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Rate Suspension On Grain Opposed

Salem — (UPI) — The Oregon Agriculture Department Thursday went on record against suspension of reduced railroad grain freight rates slated to go into effect Sept. 30.

Department Director J. F. Short sent a telegram to Harold D. McCoy, secretary of the Interstate Commerce Commission, urging denial of a petition for suspension. The petition was filed by the Portland Dock Commission and various river barge lines.

Paul T. Rowell, chief of the Oregon department's market development division, said if the rates are reduced, it would mean "at least a million dollar saving a year for grain producers in Oregon and more than four million dollars for producers in the Inland Empire."

Rowell said a suspension would be unfair to producers.

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