

Mark Indochina From Rebel Hands

SALEM — A trip by boat to the first big rice bowl newly formed shows how narrow the strip of land which the rebel forces of the sector have taken in the heart of the delta, 30 miles from the coast. The direct route from the river to the National Highway at Haiphong, a secondary road, is a French-protected by two and two are guarded by little Nam soldiers, one-gun strong, a mile on either side of the village. The ultimate cover time to time the air was fired in the rice fields.

Six miles from Hung Yen, a sergeant on patrol stopped the convoy. A few minutes earlier, a Viet Nam patrol had been overpowered by a Vietnamese party which had rushed from a rice paddy. They had hustled the prisoners off toward a village two miles away. Promptly the armed convoy fired into the village with 37-mm. cannon and sprayed the next three villages with machine-gun fire. "All these villages are Vietnamese," said the lieutenant. "We don't have enough troops here to go after them."

In the rice paddies at either side of the road, hundreds of peasants flattened out in the mud at the sound of the shooting. Were they workers or guerrillas? Nobody knows.

"We can't take a chance," the lieutenant said. "A few days ago military trucks were attacked by a group of Vietnamese disguised as women."

Col. Duong Quy Phan commands the Viet Nam sector of Hung Yen. His headquarters is in a building housing a school for young Catholic priests, the only concrete building within 15 miles.

Facing Col. Phan is an elite Vietnamese regiment, plus five companies of provincial militia and a band of guerrillas, all expert in rice-paddy fighting.

"I am always on the defensive," Col. Phan said. "Two of my battalions are tied up guarding the road. I can't launch an attack with the third against such a force."

"That is always the problem. We must hold our lines of communication. The result is that we hold the framework of an area while the Vietnamese hold the villages inside."

Of 534 villages in the Hung Yen area, 182 are considered loyal but only 78 are considered under French-Viet Nam control. This control is so limited that only 25 villages were invited to share in last January's elections.

Cleanup operations in the villages are conducted from time to time but the enemy seems always tipped off about the operation days in advance and can get out of the way of fight.

A village, once cleaned up, is given a new administration of loyalists, but the moment the troops are withdrawn, the Vietnamese move back in and purge the new officials.



TITO GUEST OF QUEEN — Communist President Tito of Yugoslavia, (left) the man who defied the Kremlin, poses with Queen Elizabeth II, her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Margaret. Tito was the luncheon guest of the British monarch at Buckingham Palace in London.

Columbia River Pact Given Okay

SALEM — Oregon's participation in writing a Columbia River Basin interstate compact was assured Wednesday after the Senate unanimously approved a resolution to appropriate \$20,000 for the state's share of the job.

The House already had voted 51 to 1 for it. Gov. Paul L. Patterson and presiding officers of both houses had the measure on their list of 11 top pieces of legislation.

Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Utah will try to draft the compact, under which some Republican leaders hope the states will take over all Columbia Basin development from the federal government.

No compact, however, can be put in force without approval of Congress and the legislatures of the states involved.

The money would be spent by the 15-man State Committee on Interstate Co-operation, which will meet with similar groups of the other four states to draft the agreement.

While he opposed the idea of compacts on the ground they are "unworkable," Sen. Richard L. Neuberger, Portland Democrat, voted for the resolution.

"We would be opening Pandora's box if we allow the Columbia River to be developed by the states," Neuberger declared. "Every compact in the country has failed."

"A great deal of demagoguery was uttered about it in the last campaign. But if you're going to take from the federal government the development of this river, Oregon has more to lose than any other state."

Sen. Philip S. Hitchcock, Klamath Falls, answered that it is only fair to see what can be worked out in the way of a compact. He said he might vote against it once it is drawn, and added that a compact could be used profitably by the states to settle disagreements.

Neuberger argued it would be

unfair to give Idaho and Montana an equal voice with Oregon's in such matters, since the bulk of the river's fish are caught on the Oregon side of the river. He also doubted that Oregon could avoid domination by the state of Washington.

The Senate sent to the House a resolution for a five-member legislative interim committee to study recreational development of the Columbia Gorge.

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A follies show entitled "A Day in Tulelake," musical numbers, dance numbers and a fashion show will be presented.

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