

## Daring Viet Cong Score Psychological Successes

BY CHARLES MOHR  
New York Times News Service  
SAIGON — The evening before Viet Cong guerrillas began their audacious attacks in Saigon, a South Vietnamese journalist was told by a police official that incidents were expected. The guard at the building of Radio Saigon was being reinforced heavily, he added.  
By dawn the next morning a radio station was being heavily shelled and it was burning.

The journalist called back his police friend and asked, "How could this happen when you reinforce your guard?"  
"I'm afraid to die," said the policeman in a matter-of-fact manner.  
The demonstrable courage and motivation of the guerrilla units which struck Saigon, Da Nang, 26 province capitals and many other towns and installations "were the cause of their psychological successes they scored. One thing which has made the

offensive against towns so dramatic — and embarrassing to the allied command — is that it has been so prolonged.  
Tonight there may still be as many as 1,000 guerrillas in Saigon itself — 94 hours after the attack began — according to United States military sources.  
The Viet Cong found some of the best fighting conditions they have ever experienced in the course of the war. This was because artillery could not be used against them and air strikes on large scale were not practicable

in city streets — although both helicopter gunships and fighter bombers have been used for civilians.  
The battle only tended to underline a fact often forgotten, which is that the Viet Cong almost always fight against government and American troops without the benefit of "supporting fires" such as artillery and air. And they fight well. He does even better when the odds are more even.  
The attacks also showed excellent

advance planning and valuable support by Communist agents within South Vietnamese towns.  
Vietnamese intelligence officials ruefully believe that there had been an unusual number of "lunerals" in one Saigon cemetery recently. A larger than usual number of coffins, followed by copiously weeping women and children were carried to be buried there.  
On the night of the attacks, one source said, some of the coffins were dug up by guerrillas

who took from them well-olled automatic and heavy weapons.  
What the population thinks of recent events is not entirely clear. To some extent they have taken cover because of surly refusal by trigger-happy military and police to let them come to work, buy food or resume some degree of normal life.  
But the crisis has not appeared only been met by any high degree of patriotic fervor or commitment by the urban population. The people of South Vietnam are very cynical and tired of this war.  
When one Vietnamese was caught in suburban Gia Dinh during a successful Viet Cong attack on a police station, he went from door to door asking for help. He was turned away by people who said, "We want no strangers in our house at a time like this."  
In the same area anyone wearing a police or army uniform (See Courageous: A-2, Col. 2)

## Mop-Up Operation Pushed In Saigon

SAIGON (UPI) — American and South Vietnamese forces fought, dying, remnants of Communist invaders in the streets of Saigon Saturday. Enough order had been restored for officials to partially lift the 24-hour curfew in some areas.  
U.S. officials reported allied forces attacked with planes and tanks the ancient imperial capital of Hue in a drive to recapture the city from Viet Cong invaders who occupied most of the town.  
The officials reported earlier Saturday that Communist casualties during the Communist

offensive throughout the nation had risen to 12,704 since 6 p.m. Monday. The officials said the Communists were dying at a ratio of 13 to one to the allies.  
In Washington, President Johnson said Friday the Communist push was "a complete failure" in terms of military gains. Johnson said North Vietnamese forces were preparing a major offensive in the Khe Sanh Valley in South Vietnam's northwest corner.  
"I am confident that our men and the South Vietnamese will be giving a good account of themselves," Johnson told reporters

during an impromptu White House news conference.  
Gen. William C. Westmoreland, the American commander, said Thursday the Communist attacks this week were the prelude to a "go-for-broke" attack by 40,000 North Vietnamese regulars to take Khe Sanh and the rest of South Vietnam's two northernmost provinces.  
U. S. troops bolstered by artillery and air support drove a mauled Viet Cong battalion trying to escape Saigon into the guns of South Vietnamese infantry on the outskirts of the capital city.

Other fighting was reported along a 600-mile front ranging all the way from Hue near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between North and South Vietnam to villages and outposts swamps of the Mekong Delta.  
Hue, the old imperial capital 50 miles south of the DMZ, lay in semitruis from a see-saw battle involving a force of U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese troops trying to drive North Vietnamese and Viet Cong invaders from the city once known as "The Venice of the Orient."  
UPI correspondent Richard V. Oliver, reporting from Hue Friday night, said he was told the Marine force had suffered 35 percent casualties. Communist snipers peppered helicopters flying dead and wounded Marines from a landing zone set up on the lawn of Hue University.  
Oliver said the Communist force at Hue was holding the allied assault team at bay with brand new automatic rifles made in Communist China. Accurate anti-aircraft weapons, knocked down two U.S. helicopter gunships Friday morning, Oliver said.

The intensity of the Communist thrusts was abating, apparently because of the heavy casualties inflicted by allied counterattacks and heavy firepower.  
The American command said allied losses since Monday stood at 933 killed and 3,483 wounded. This was broken down into 318 Americans killed, 1,639 Americans wounded, 693 South Vietnamese killed, 1,782 South Vietnamese wounded, and four other free world allies killed and 52 wounded.  
It appeared that the combat would produce a new week

of no transcript of the sea (See N. Korea: A-1, Col. 4)

## N. Korea Rebuffs Another U.S. Effort To Regain Pueblo

WASHINGTON (UPI) — North Korea has rebuffed a second United States demand for a conference on the electronic monitoring ship Pueblo and her crew, seized 10 days ago.  
President Johnson announced Friday that a meeting between U.S. and North Korean representatives in Panmunjom "did not produce any satisfactory results so far as the United States is concerned."  
But he indicated that diplomatic efforts — rather than military moves — would continue, even though, as he admitted, he had no confidence that the U.S. could expect to have the ship and her crew back in the near future.  
"I don't want to hold out any hopes on information that I have. It is not qualified," the President told a hastily summoned news conference at the White House. "All I can say is that things take time."

Mothers Pleads For Son's Return, Page A-2



The President

## U.S. Ship Collides With Soviet Vessel

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Soviet merchant ship and a U.S. destroyer collided off Korea Wednesday in an incident the Pentagon apparently sought to minimize because of tension stirred by North Korea's recent seizure of the Navy ship Pueblo.  
The Defense Department, disclosing the minor collision Friday, said the 10,000-ton Kapitza Vislobokov and the 3,500-ton USS Rowan collided in the Sea of Japan at 1:53 p.m. EST Wednesday (5:33 a.m. Thursday, local time).  
At the time the vessels were about 90 miles east of Pohang, South Korea, and well south of the North Korean port of Wonsan where the intelligence ship Pueblo is held.  
The Pentagon said the Rowan had the right of way but the State Department said the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow protested to the U.S. embassy asserting the warship was in the wrong.  
NO CASUALTIES  
Neither ship reported any casualties but the destroyer emerged with a three-foot hole above the water line on her port bow.  
"When queried by flashing lights, the Vislobokov signalled 'no assistance required' and 'damage to my stern two meters in length,'" the Pentagon reported. Two meters are a little over six feet.  
Later, defense officials told newsmen they believe the collision was in no way connected with the Pueblo incident. "Unless you take the far-fetched idea that had it not been for the Pueblo, the destroyer wouldn't have been in the area."



## A Place To Live

Housing and the human factor will be explored Sunday by a team of Greensboro Daily News staff writers. You can find what whites and Negroes are saying and what's happening to home values in a community in racial transition.

## The Solo Parents

The third world of divorced parents is a "lonely and disenchanted place." A group that is called The Solo Parents is trying to break through a circle of loneliness that sets them apart from the larger circle of community life. You can find their story Sunday.



Mondale (R), Auto Critic Ralph Nader Talk After Hearing

## Mondale Hits Auto Safety Belt Charges

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. Walter F. Mondale, D-Minn., charged Friday that the U.S. auto industry was making \$100 million extra profit this year by overcharging the public for seat belt shoulder harnesses.  
He said the automobile industry raised car prices by \$25, "attributed totally to the cost of complying with the safety standards requiring shoulder harnesses."  
"This industry will be making a profit of about \$20 a car — an overall profit on this one standard alone of more than \$100 million," Mondale told the Senate Subcommittee on Executive Reorganization.  
He urged Congress to block the industry from "using safety to gouge the consumer." He said the industry's argument that safety standards required by Congress justified its price increases was "baloney."  
Another witness, Heinz A. Abersfelder, a commissioner of the General Services Administration (GSA), said the agency expects that the big three auto makers would refuse to sell cars to the government rather than show how the cost of safety devices has affected car prices.

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Marine Crawls For Cover After Being Hit On Bridge Near Hue

## Reds Kill 6 Missionaries

SAIGON (UPI) — Six American missionaries, three of them women, were killed in a Viet Cong assault on the central highlands town of Ban Me Thout, it was disclosed Friday. Others were reported missing.  
The massacre occurred earlier this week at a leprosarium operated by the Christian and Missionary Alliance, the largest Protestant missionary group in Vietnam. It has 125 missionaries scattered throughout the country.  
Reports of the killings and kidnappings came from U.S. Army Chaplain Richard Perkins at Ban Me Thout and from Mrs. Marie Ziemer, formerly of Toledo, Ohio, whose husband Robert, 45, was one of those killed. Badly wounded



5 Of 6 Killed By VC

Me Thout and from Mrs. Marie Ziemer, formerly of Toledo, Ohio, whose husband Robert, 45, was one of those killed. Badly wounded

The dead, in addition to Robert Ziemer, were identified as Leon E. Griswold, 66, formerly of Orlando, Fla., and White Plains, N.Y.; his daughter, Carolyn, 41, the Rev. C. Edward Thompson, 43, formerly of New Kensington, Pa.; his wife Ruth, 44, and Miss Ruth Wilting, 42, formerly of Cleveland, Ohio.  
The whereabouts of several other missionaries were unknown and they were feared kidnapped by the Viet Cong.

Ban Me Thout is 170 miles north of Saigon. It was overrun this week by two battalions of Communist troops in an offensive that also struck towns from one end of South Vietnam to the other, including Saigon. One of those feared kidnapped at Ban Me Thout was Hank Blood, a member of the Wycliffe Translations, a missionary organization with headquarters in Los Angeles.  
DESTROYED ALL  
Chaplain Perkins telephoned McCord Air Force Base in the United States from Ban Me Thout. He said the Viet Cong destroyed all the buildings and homes at the Ban Me Thout mission, including the leprosarium.  
The leprosarium was built in 1957 at the mission the Christian and Missionary Alliance had operated since 1911.  
"Miss Wilting had been in Vietnam since 1952, longer than most Americans. She headed the pediatric department at Cleveland Metropolitan Hospital from March to November 1952.  
The Rev. and Mrs. Thompson came to Vietnam from Cambodia in 1968. The couple met while the Rev. Thompson was attending the Nyack Missionary College in Nyack, N.Y.  
The Ziemers first went to Vietnam in 1947. They had been at Ban Me Thout for 18 months.

## Today's Chuckle

Don't underestimate love at first sight. Most of us might not pass a second inspection.

## FDA Blocking Sale Of Diet Pills

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Food and Drug Administration said Friday that thyroid-diet pills are dangerous and the agency is moving to stop their sale.  
"I think it is a skeleton in your closet," Hest said.  
Goddard testified at the final session of a two-week hearing by the Senate antitrust subcommittee on the diet pill industry. He said recent actions were taken recently against three manufacturers of thyroid-diet pills preparations and additional seizures are expected from other firms momentarily.  
Goddard said his agency feels it "now has sufficient evidence to prove that these drugs constitute a danger to health."  
In his testimony he said FDA files show the agency received a report of a death associated with thyroid-diet pills in 1963 but concluded it would be impossible to prove a cause-and-effect relationship.  
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