

Cambodia Situation Termed Critical

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (UPI) — American fighter-bombers struck at Communist Khmer Rouge lines threatening the strategic Mekong River naval base at Neak Luong, 32 miles southeast of Phnom Penh, early Wednesday as the situation there turned critical, field commanders reported.

It was the second reported instance of U.S. fighter jets operating in Cambodia since all American aerial activity in Cambodia was provisionally halted with the signing of the Vietnam peace pact. The first attack came last Thursday, when U.S. bombers were dispatched to the besieged provincial capital of Kompong Thom, 80 miles north of Phnom Penh.

The Communist offensive against Neak Luong is the biggest ever launched by the Khmer Rouge. Communist troops have pushed to within one mile of the base and are keeping the city under constant heavy artillery bombardment. Neak Luong is the most strategic defense position of the Mekong River and its capture could result in the severing of the vital supply artery along which weekly convoys carrying food, petroleum and ammunition to the capital.

Closer to the capital on Highway 1, fighting raged outside the town of Dey Eth, 15 miles south of Phnom Penh, as government forces relieved one besieged outpost and then staged an unsuccessful push to retain six miles of road occupied by the Khmer Rouge.

According to field officers, the government forces, reinforced by 20 American-made armored personnel carriers and nearly 1,500 fresh troops, stormed through rebel lines to relieve the beleaguered river-side garrison of At Ksom.

The government troops then tried to push down Highway 1 but were driven back by heavy fire from the well-entrenched Khmer Rouge.

At least one government soldier was killed and 15 wounded, the officers said.

Later in the day, Cambodian Air Force 728 fighter planes strafed a line of sampans carrying nearly 300 Khmer Rouge reinforcements to positions on Highway 1 from the east bank of the Mekong.

Reno High School

By KAREN BAKER

Reno High has received the Youth for Understanding student for the spring semester. Youth for Understanding student organization which exchanges students with other countries for either one or two semesters. Our student is Lucia Trajau, a 17-year-old girl from Recife, Brazil.

She enjoys swimming, volleyball, and ping-pong, and has traveled to many places, including Uruguay and Paraguay.

Lucia hopes to go into the medical field when she has completed her high school education. After her semester here, she will return to her native Brazil. She is currently living with the Klebenow family of Reno.

This year will be the first year that we will have a drill team. The 12 girls chosen several weeks ago have performed at two home games and one pep assembly, and are scheduled to perform again Feb. 26.

Drill team members are Jennifer Champney, Betty Hawkins, Terri Hummel, Kim Hutchinson, Sandra Maysey, Gail McInture, Alice Moy, Margaret Ochs, Toni Puliti, Ka Lene Robins, Connie Watts, Pam Westbrook, and Debbie Sisk, alternate.

The American Field Service Club (AFS) has elected its officers for the spring semester. They are Cheryl Hug, president; Martin Smith, vice-president; Connie Conant, secretary; Nicky McCormick, student council representative; and Lisa Rea, Heather Daily, Hans Peter Brunner, and Taylor Hellmann, publicity.

Casinos Exempt from Tax On 'Cartwheels'--Opinion

CARSON CITY (UPI) — Casinos do not have to pay sales tax when they buy true silver dollars to be used as slot machine jackpots, the attorney general's office said this week.

Jack Hunter, chairman of the Nevada Tax Commission, had asked whether casinos should pay tax on silver "cartwheels" which have been removed from general circulation but are still used by some casinos for the single purpose.

The true silver dollars have been picked up by collectors in recent years and have a value considerably higher than the new dollar made of other metal. Some casinos and slot machine

arcades purchase the true silver dollars from private retailers at prices well above the face value of the coins. No sales tax is collected by the vendor.

The dollars are used solely to pay off jackpots on special quarter slot machines. The winner has the option of keeping them, or redeeming them with the casino for more than twice the face value.

"The determinative question is whether or not the special use of silver cartwheels made by the casinos in question is properly deemed use as a medium of exchange, or use for some other purpose," said the opinion by Dept. Atty. Gen. James Salo. "The patron may do as he or she wishes with the coins received. The casino maintains no control over such coins or the disposition thereof by winning gaming patrons. Therefore, the casino cannot be considered a collector of such coins, rather, the casino only engages in transactions for the acquisition of silver 'cartwheels' as part of its normal gaming operation."

Carson-Tahoe Hospital Allows Abortions

Journal Carson City Bureau

Carson-Tahoe Hospital Trustees, on the recommendation of the medical staff's executive committee, voted unanimously this week to permit abortions at the facility.

They also accepted a tentative \$2.8 million budget for fiscal 1973-74, heard the number of patient days had increased 9 per cent this year over last, and were told by Administrator Raymond Farwell that small claims court would be resorted to in an effort to collect unpaid bills, which now total approximately \$800,000.

Farwell said a hospital controller had been selected — a Las Vegas whose name would be announced early next week.

He also suggested that consultants be hired to help reduce the cost and improve the quality of food served at the hospital.

Farwell said the abortion program would be geared to meet the needs of local residents, and that staff members who did not wish to take part would be excused.

In another matter, he predicted that at the present rate, occupancy would reach an average of 84.3 per cent next year, meaning, in some instances, the facility would be at capacity and there would be no room for additional patients.

Moon Mountains Probed by Robot

MOSCOW (UPI) — The Lunokhod 2 moon robot parked just over a mile from the Taurus Mountains Wednesday and probed an unusual slab of smooth rock blasted into view by a large meteor, the Soviet Tass news agency said.

"Lunokhod 2 has begun exploring an unusual piece of lunar material thrown out from the moon's interior during the birth of a big crater," Tass said.

"This one-meter (39 1 inches) long plate, resembling a modern house panel, has proved to be a strong monolith."

The eight-wheeled robot, which arrived on the moon Jan. 16, was nearly three miles from its landing site on the Sea of Serenity.

The Soviet moon kuggy left only slight traces on the thin layer of dust on the spotlighted rock, Tass said.

"The plate has a smooth surface, whereas giant stones lying nearby are pockmarked with holes of craters left by tiny meteorites," it added.

The robot is further exploring the plate to determine its chemical composition and magnetic properties Tass said "it seems much younger" than other stones in the Taurus foothills.

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