

AID TO BE DENIED VIETNAM FORCES NOT ON WAR DUTY

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Special Troops Will Receive No U.S. Pay for Political and Security Activity

RISE IN TENSION IS SEEN

Washington Also Holds Back on Surplus-Food Accord to Force Reforms

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SAIGON, South Vietnam, Oct. 21 — The United States is reliably reported to have told Col. Le Quang Tung, commander of the politically powerful Vietnamese Special Forces, that from now on it will not pay Special Forces troops used in political and security missions.

The sources of this report say the colonel was told that his troops would receive American financial support only if they were used in combat against Communist guerrillas and only if they notified American advisers of their movements.

The Special Forces played a vital role in the raiding of pagodas and the arrest of Buddhist leaders Aug. 21. The raids were carried out to stop anti-Government protests by the Buddhists, who charged religious discrimination by the regime of President Ngo Dinh Diem, a Roman Catholic.

Troops Used for Nhu

Col. Le Quang Tung's troops are seen here as being used primarily as the political-military force of Ngo Dinh Nhu, the President's brother. Today's action was believed to be a direct move against Ngo Dinh Nhu, who is considered the man behind the action against the Buddhists and the most powerful man in the country.

Observers here believed the cutback was bound to increase the growing tension between the United States and the ruling Ngo family, who are currently cooperating in an uneasy alliance against Communist guerrillas.

This cutback in aid appeared to be chosen as a way to get at Ngo Dinh Nhu and to show United States displeasure over the pagoda raids. The cut will probably have more psychological and political than economic impact.

The United States Embassy

U.S. CURTAILS AID TO VIETNAM UNITS

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today declined to comment on the report.

The colonel was reported to have been displeased at the notice of the cut.

At present, almost all of the six Special Forces battalions are believed to be on security missions. They have apparently seen extremely little fighting against the Vietcong.

The cut is in keeping with President Kennedy's statements that the United States will support policies that help the war effort and will not support policies that hamper it. The aid cut seen here as not subject to criticism as recently voiced by Mrs. Ngo Dinh Nhu that the United States does not want to win the war and instead places the burden on the Ngo family itself to use troops against the Communists.

Other Cuts Possible

It is possible that other limited aid cuts, designed to show United States displeasure with recent actions by the Government, might follow. The idea would be to show the Vietnamese population that while the United States still supports the people of Vietnam in the struggle against Communist guerrillas, it does not want itself associated with the Ngo family's attitudes toward the population, according to sources.

The Vietnamese Special Forces, formed for guerrilla actions, have become a political-military unit of strong loyalty to the palace, according to Americans in Saigon. The Americans believe that Ngo Dinh Nhu uses the Special Forces to control the rest of the time and that the Special Forces spend too little time in combat.

It is believed that if the Special Forces were taken from the Saigon area and used in the field, this would have considerable effect on palace security. But most observers here doubt that the Special Forces will be sent into the field and believe that funds will be switched from other channels to pay for the troops.

The United States is extremely unhappy with the role of Ngo Dinh Nhu and his wife in the Government, and believe they are a divisive force in Vietnamese politics. The United States has suggested to President Ngo Dinh Diem that the war effort might be improved if Ngo Dinh Nhu left the Government. Ngo Dinh Nhu is head of the Special Forces and political adviser to the President.

According to reliable sources, the Special Forces are paid \$3 million a year, most of it coming through the Central Intelligence Agency. It is paid

in instalments of \$250,000 each month.

For some time, there has been a feeling among Americans here that the Special Forces had been diverted from their main purpose and were being used primarily as to support and sustain the Ngo family Government.

At the beginning of September, despite a recommendation from most of the C. I. A. members here to cut off funds to the Special Forces, Washington decided to pay Col. Le Quang Tung's monthly salary for August. Since then, however, he has not been paid. The Special Forces program, like many others, went under close review in Washington.

Americans apparently hope to work out a formula to determine how much will be paid each month for troops on duty.

No regular units of the Special Forces battalions are on combat duty, according to reports.

Most of these troops are working in security missions. About 2,000 are in the Saigon area. Of these, 1,200 are at Camp Long Thanh and about 800 in Saigon itself.

4,000 Soldiers Pursue Reds

TRUNG LAP, South Vietnam, Oct. 21 (AP)—More than 4,000 Vietnamese troops, harassed by mine explosions, accidents and Communist snipers concealed in tunnels, slogged through huge tracts of jungle here today in an almost futile mission.

The task force had hoped to trap two battalions—about 800 men—of Vietcong guerrillas. Only 25 miles north of Saigon, this area is as stubbornly controlled by the Communists as any in the country.

At the end of the day, 15 Government soldiers, including one American sergeant, were wounded and three were dead. Nine of the casualties, including the American one, occurred when a Communist mine exploded. A Vietnamese radio operator was killed and another seriously wounded when a

rocket from a helicopter landed on them by accident.

Vietcong casualties were not known.

Marines, rangers, paratroopers, regular infantrymen and sailors all participated in the operation, which began at dawn Sunday. It was expected they would continue with the action for several days.