

# Troops Get Ammunition Education Group Urged To Support Improvements

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — U.S. infantrymen got cartridges yesterday for the rifles they have been carrying empty in their assignment to help thwart any Communist infiltration from Laos.

Lt. Gen. James I. Richardson Jr., commander of American forces, announced the distribution of ammunition to the 1st Battle Group, 27th Infantry.

The battle group of 1,000 men — to be doubled by reinforcements in an airlift of troops and equipment expected to continue at least another week — is encamped in a forested area at Khorat, 135 miles northeast of Bangkok and several miles west of the Laotian frontier.

Contributing to a discussion that arose at President Kennedy's news conference in Washington Wednesday, Richardson said, "I wish to emphasize that the 1st Battle Group has been prepared since its initial arrival in Thailand to carry out any mission assigned, combat or otherwise."

**THE GROUP** arrived six weeks ago for Southeast Asia Treaty Organization maneuvers. The basic idea of his statement — like explanations of Kennedy and the Pentagon — was that, though the rifles were empty, ammunition was readily available in storage and in trucks that moved with the units.

The Pentagon described this as standard Army practice for troops not in contact with or immediately threatened by an enemy.

On the other hand, ammunition clips are regularly carried by Marines. A 1,800-man Marine expeditionary force forming part of Richardson's command is stationed at Udon, about 40 miles south of the Laotian frontier.

Richardson said SEATO maneuvers did not require the issuance of ammunition to the American infantrymen.

When it was decided that the 1st Battle Group would remain in Thailand, as part of the U.S. military buildup, orders "were issued to be prepared to issue ammunition from that available in Thailand, if and when required."

**RICHARDSON SAID**, "At the same time, ammunition was ordered forwarded from Okinawa. Ammunition is being issued to the 1st Battle Group today and those units coming from Hawaii are bringing ammunition with them."

A U.S. Embassy spokesman announced an airlift operating from the island state is chiefly in support of the 1st Battle Group.

"Every day until next Thursday five or 10 large aircraft will be flying from Hawaii into Khorat with equipment and some personnel," the spokesman said.

Token support was assured from some other SEATO members.

Prime Minister Harold Macmillan announced in London that Britain is sending in a Royal Air Force squadron at the request of the Thai government.

**HARRISBURG (AP)** — A new citizens' committee on education received a gubernatorial challenge yesterday to carry the banner for educational improvements into the 1963 General Assembly.

Gov. Lawrence told his 100-member committee for better education that he does not feel the needs of education can wait until his successor takes office.

"The next governor will need help and advice in problems of education," Lawrence said. "He should not be forced to wait interminable months before he is given that advice — for every day he loses will be paid for in months as time goes on."

**LAWRENCE SAID**, "I believe — and I believed so when I appointed it — that this committee will be in the best position to give that advice to him."

The new committee is a direct descendant of the 1960 Governor's Committee on Education. Only one of the old committee's recom-

mendations — compulsory school reorganization — was adopted by the 1961 Legislature.

Committee leaders and the governor now have four major problems to resolve: implementing the 1961 school reorganization law, developing a program for higher education, financing public education and improving teachers' pay.

**THE MAJOR** proposal brought out yesterday was for a new organization to develop state policies on education.

As outlined by Dr. Richard Schier, professor at Franklin and Marshall College and a member of the committee, this proposal would set up a state board of education to make the major policy decisions.

The board would consist of 14 to 18 members. They would at other times divide into two separate councils — one on higher education and the other on public education.

## Red China Food Shortage Causes Mass Refugee Flight to Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Thousands of refugees from Red China again tried to slip by British border guards and barbed wire barriers yesterday into Hong Kong, despite growing efforts of Communist authorities to dissuade them.

Communist loudspeakers appealed to the fugitives to return to their villages and help grow food. But, border reporters said Red guards made no attempt to use force to stem the refugee flow, which has become an international political and humanitarian problem.

**BORDER SOURCES** said British police and army patrols rounded up all but about 500 of 5,000 refugees who succeeded in getting into this crown colony before dawn. They were sent to a detention camp for return to Red China.

Fear of increased food shortages has been cited by the Hong Kong refugees as a major reason for the mass exodus.

In Washington, U.S. officials tackled a vast amount of paper work yesterday to determine who among several thousand Chinese refugees in overcrowded Hong Kong will be admitted to the United States.

Chinese to be given the first preference are those with special skills who have sponsors in this country or who have relatives in the United States.

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