

Hanoi says Chinese mobilizing

BANGKOK, Thailand (UPI) — Bolstered by fresh Soviet military aid, Vietnam yesterday accused China of staging "barbarous acts of war" that threaten chances for a peaceful withdrawal of the Peking invaders.

Laos, a close ally of Hanoi, charged Peking with threatening to expand the 19-day war by massing 500,000 troops near the point where the Chinese, Laotian and Vietnamese borders join.

Western military sources said there were signs of disengagement in some areas of the 450-mile border between China and Vietnam, but military analysts said so far no Peking troops have left Vietnamese territory.

Radio Hanoi reported 426 Chinese were killed or wounded in fresh fighting in the north and northwest, and that Peking troops blew up two bridges spanning the strategic Ky Cung River

and looted nearby villages.

It said the stiffest battles were around Lang Son, a provincial capital which Western intelligence reports said was captured by the Chinese last week.

"Chinese aggressors yesterday (Tuesday) and this morning (Wednesday) continued to carry out many barbarous, criminal acts, including plundering people's houses and wanton shelling," the Vietnamese broadcast said.

The Soviet Union stepped up its support for Vietnam, sending a warship and two reconnaissance vessels into the American-built port of Da Nang for the first time ever, reports from Washington said.

Radio Hanoi's report of new battles indicated the situation could deteriorate into heavy fighting again because of the conditions each side has put on a

peaceful withdrawal, military analysts in Bangkok said.

China has announced its troops will withdraw but only if they are not attacked, and Hanoi said early yesterday it would let the Chinese leave if they went peacefully.

But Hanoi's announcement of its agreement to the withdrawal was followed only hours later by the reports of fresh fighting, sparking fears the Vietnamese will attack the Chinese and trigger a counterattack.

Though Hanoi — as well as Peking — has claimed victory, it is showing no sign of letting down its guard, maintaining its full war mobilization and continuing a troop airlift from the south begun Friday, Western intelligence sources said.

F-15s may fly to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The administration has offered to send F-15 fighter planes to Saudi Arabia for the second time this year in addition to its dispatch of a carrier task group, Pentagon sources said yesterday.

The sources said while the carrier USS Constellation, expected to leave Subic Bay in the Philippines shortly, would take 10 days or longer to reach the area, the U.S. fighters could be on the scene earlier and free Saudi Arabian aircraft to take a direct role in fighting between North and South Yemen.

Nor have they indicated whether they would accept the U.S. offer.

Last January as the shah was being ousted in Iran, President Carter sent a dozen unarmed F-15 Eagles to Saudi Arabia on a "show-the-flag" mission to illustrate U.S. ability to get forces quickly to the region.

The proposal now would be to send armed planes which could take over air defense duties while Saudi Arabia used its F-5 jets to bolster North Yemen forces. The F-15 is the Air Force's top air-to-air fighter.

The United States has protested Soviet involvement in helping Marxist-led South Yemen plan and coordinate the offensive against its neighbor.

Iranian oil delay ends for U.S.

TEHRAN, Iran (UPI) — Oil flowed into the hold of the first American tanker berthed at an Iranian port in more than two months yesterday, as Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini complained his appointed premier's government was acting just like the shah's regime.

Khomeini's criticism of Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, the Moslem leader's most caustic remarks yet about his chosen successor for the shah's last regime, came after denials of newspaper reports that Bazargan already had quit.

The ayatollah sent a message to all government ministries ordering officials to observe austerity and reform their "non-Islamic, pre-revolutionary ways."

"The provisional government is behaving just as governments behaved in the days of (Shah) Mohammed Reza (Pahlavi)," Khomeini said.

Bazargan has complained that Khomeini's supporters are interfering with the work of his government and asked them to stop it.

At the Kharg Island terminal, reopened Monday after a 69-day break in

Iranian oil production while Khomeini's revolution forced the shah to leave his homeland, the supertanker Al Ryah loaded 160,000 tons of light and 90,000 tons of heavy crude oil bound for the American Ashland Oil Co.

No price was given, but a day earlier Royal Dutch Shell picked up 320,000 tons and paid what Iranian officials said was "no less than \$18 a barrel and not more than \$22." That price range represented an increase of 35 to 65 percent above price levels set in December.

Begin: Israel's 'done its share'

NEW YORK (UPI) — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin said yesterday his country has "done its share" to reach a peace agreement with Egypt, and a treaty will be signed soon if President Anwar Sadat gives his approval.



"With God's help, very soon, we'll be signing a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt," Begin said, if President Carter wins Sadat's approval of the new proposals that broke the negotiating deadlock.



Begin addressed a group of 2,000 Jewish leaders hours before he is to return to Israel to prepare for Carter's arrival Saturday.

Carter, Begin and opposition Labor Party leader Shimon Peres will address the Knesset Monday.



"They (the proposals) restored the peace treaty to be a serious document," said Begin who on his arrival in Washington last week said Israel would never sign a "sham" treaty.

The expressions and gestures of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin go from joyous to serious during his address to the Conference of Presidents yesterday in New York City. Begin believes Israel has "done its share" to reach a peace agreement with Egypt.

Referring to Israel as the free world's "one reliable, stable ally in the Middle East," Begin said he made some suggestions to Carter concerning "regional issues." He gave no details.

Israeli officials have said one such idea is to give port facilities to the American military at Haifa, and the use of a Sinai airbase that would be under Egyptian rule.

If everyone agrees on a treaty, Begin said, he would go first to Cairo to sign an Arabic version. Sadat would then sign a Hebrew version in Jerusalem and Carter would sign an English version in both capitals.

"We will not go to Mt. Sinai," said Begin, referring to a suggestion by Sadat that the signing take place on that desert hilltop.

Without giving specifics of the compromises reached in Washington, Begin detailed previous American "unacceptable" proposals. He said they contained "eight deviations" from the agreements reached with Egypt at the September Camp David summit.

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