

## South Viet Nam Again Wracked By War

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — South Viet Nam was wracked by war again Sunday after a brief Christmas truce the Communists had hoped would last the torch of peace.

The 30-hour cease-fire by U.S. and South Vietnamese forces turned into a one-sided experiment. The 12-hour truce offered by the Viet Cong lasted only about six hours.

The U.S. Defense Department had reportedly instructed the military command here to extend the cease-fire if it appeared to be providing the Communists with an excuse to stop shooting and start negotiating.

The Viet Cong seized the initiative, however. The U.S. high command said they instigated a total of 84 incidents during both the Communist and U.S. cease-fires.

Allied forces were back in action, but only in South Viet Nam. The U.S. Air Force and 7th Fleet carrier planes made no strikes against the Communists.

A U.S. Air Force spokesman said the weather was the "weather" which was good, had no bearing on this decision.

As a result of Viet Cong attacks during the truce period, at least a dozen Americans and up

to 50 South Vietnamese soldiers were killed. Many others were wounded.

Pope Paul VI who had appealed a week ago for a Christmas cease-fire was reported to be concerned over resumption of fighting.

Sources in Vatican City said the pontiff appeared deeply disappointed over news that combat had resumed in Viet Nam.

Communist broadcasts from Hanoi yesterday made no mention of the U.S. decision to extend the truce to 30 hours.

But Hanoi's official newspaper Nhan Dan said the United States is "treacherously prattling

about unconditional discussions" for a settlement to Viet Nam.

"They — the Americans — are acting as if they really wanted peace in order to brand the Vietnamese people as belligerents," said an article signed by "Papier."

Moscow charged that the United States had violated the truce.

U.S. military spokesman in Saigon gave this picture of the cease-fire: Reporting from the field during the Viet Cong armistice and the early part of the American-Vietnamese cease-fire

was slow. Headquarters had little evidence of infractions.

The State Department apparently decided the atmosphere was right to extend the truce and set for perhaps a negotiated settlement.

The U.S. command in Saigon fired back to Washington the series of Viet Cong infractions while their own spokesman were telling newsmen everything was quiet.

That was happening all day Christmas and up until mid-morning.

At 4 a.m. Sunday, the command took the wraps off and sent out orders to all units to

resume normal operations, a senior military spokesman said.

This canceled the instruction not to fire unless fired upon.

"Things are moving right now," one official said. "The cease-fire apparently was extended Christmas Eve."

One Marine patrol outside Da Nang was caught and escaped.

It was engaged only in perimeter defense but Marine officers were under orders not to shoot unless shot at.

At least about 100 American and dependent George Kaper reported from the area. The patrol suffered heavy casualties.

A typical instance of the Viet Cong action occurred at the

Special Services' bombing facility on the Saigon River. A terrorist exploded an electrician's under, wounding four Americans.

Communist quick action by Vietnamese police and paramilitary forces captured when a second mine was discovered about to go off.

The terrorist was captured when he tried to flee in a sampan.

The Communists also seized the Saigon government and Vietnamese government units.

Thirty-three of the incidents were in the Mekong delta which is protected only by government troops and U.S. advisers. Two

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