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SAIGON--Small numbers of military personnel from Communist China have infiltrated into South Vietnam, informed sources disclosed here.

The situation is not considered grave.

A ~~pak~~ spokesman for the American military command in Saigon flatly denied the report.

"I've never heard of that before," the spokesman said. "There are no Chinese Communist military personnel in South Vietnam."

Intelligence sources indicate that no repeat no prisoners from Communist China have yet been captured on the battlefields of South Vietnam. ~~Re~~ A number of Vietnamese residents of Chinese extraction--most of whom speak Vietnamese--have been locally recruited by the Viet Cong; some have been captured, "but they're a different kettle of fish and nothing to worry about," one official explained. There are roughly one million persons of Chinese extraction in South Vietnam, many of whom have taken out Vietnamese citizenship.

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During the past two years, this correspondent has discussed the question of Chinese Communists infiltrating into South Vietnam with a wide range of sources, including Vietnamese government officials, American and Vietnamese officers in the field, diplomats and intelligence agents. This is the evidence that ~~that~~ small numbers of Chinese Communists military personnel have clandestinely moved into South Vietnam:

1. This summer, Saigon embassies of America's major allies began reporting to their home capitals that they believed military personnel from Communist China had arrived in the South. The existence of the Chinese Communists in the south was no longer a question in their minds. The question they posed, was explained to this correspondent by one high-ranking diplomat—who is also an intelligence officer, "What are the Chicoms doing here?" he pondered. "We believe they are operating as individuals --not as units. If they are advisors or military ~~technical~~ ~~engineers~~ ~~technicians~~ technicians, such as mortar experts, to the ~~North~~ North Vietnamese units, then the situation is not serious. If, however, they are observers, it may mean they are sizing up the American troops as a ~~prelude~~ prelude to sending in their own ground troops. If that is the case, then hold your hat—we are in a totally new war, which can send the whole world up in nuclear flames."

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2. One high-ranking Vietnamese government official, and ~~curr~~ concurrently a general, said Vietnamese intelligence information had confirmed the presence of Chinese Communist troops in the South. In another case, in July, one <sup>"big"</sup> Chinese Communist ~~the~~ main force unit arrived in southern Laos to replace the North Vietnamese division 324-B which was sent ~~to~~ into the demilitarized zone from North Vietnam and Laos to fight the American Marines.

3. Other intelligence sources indicated that radio communications spoken in Chinese had not only been heard but also had been taped by Vietnamese and allied forces. He said these tapes had been sent to Washington, D. C. In addition, one American officer--who spoke Mandarin Chinese--reportedly heard Chinese <sup>military</sup> radio communications during Operation Hastings-Prairie along the demilitarized zone earlier this year-- and ~~the~~ befuddled the speakers by replaying to them in their own language. Since December, 1964, Vietnamese field commanders have reported Chinese language radio transmissions during large-scale battles in Communist stronghold areas.

3. Reports of Communist military operations ~~wit~~ written in Chinese characters have been captured by allied units. While Vietnamese is a tonal language similar to Chinese, it is written in an alphabet of Western letters.

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4. American military troops have reported finding an increas increasing number of Communist dead--~~s~~especially near the DMZ--with their faces blown off, presumably g by grenades thrown by hastily retreating troops in an attempt to erase facial features from the dead ~~h~~ left behind on the battlefield.

5. Six ralliers--persons who once served the Communists and then voluntarily elected to come to the government side--have reported the presence of military personnel from Communist China in their areas of operation.

One rallier named Nguyen Van Quang reported Chinese Communist personnel in Kien Phong province, 70 miles west of Saigon, Kien Phong province borders on Cambodia and contains wide expanses of the marshy Plain of Reeds, which has long been a Communist haven. Another rallier named Nguyen Dinh Than reported Chinese Communists in Quang Ngai province, 80 miles south of ~~D~~ Danang and a long-time Communist stronghold even during French times. Vu ~~S~~ Quan Toan reported Chinese Communists in Phuoc Tuy province, 45 miles southeast of Saigon. A fourth rallier named Vo Van Nhu reported Chinese Communists in the II military corps, which covers half the territory of South Vietnam. It lies north of Saigon and borders both Cambodia and Laos.

6. This correspondent heard the preliminary interrogation of a North Vietnamese Communist prisoner who said a military unit from Communist China had infiltrated to South Vietnam with his unit.

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The prisoner, who identified himself as Hoang Van Hue, was captured by the 2nd Bn., 4th Reg., Third Marine Division (American) on July 21, near the demilitarized zone in the famed "Helicopter Valley" where four American helicopters were either shot down or crashed during Operation Hastings.

On the river bank of a small stream, where two ~~Mar~~ American Marine platoons had been disasterously ambushed earlier in the week, the 15-year-old Hue said "there are many Chinese in my battalion. There's one company of Chinese and two companies of North Vietnamese in my battalion." He said the battalion commander was North Vietnamese and that the Chinese company had a Chinese Communist interpreter ~~1~~ who spoke Vietnamese for communication with the North Vietnamese troops.

He told how the Hanoi regime force "petit garcons" (small boys) such as himself to go into the army; he was a seventh grader in ~~his~~ school, he said, where, among the other classes, he was taught Russian lanuage. He said he belonged to a "transportation" element--to pack rice, tobacco, and ammunition on his back for the Commando battalioh. He said his battalion was one of five which had infiltrated into South Vietnam from North Vietnam two months earlier.

Hue, dressed in green T-shirt and green fatigue trousers, while answering the questions of an American intelligence agent, said the ~~Cyn~~ Chinese Communists were "friends" of the North Vietnamese. He said his father was a farmer and that he ~~two~~ two sisters and two brothers--one of them already taken away to fight the war in Thanh Hoa province, where American planes have been hitting almost daily.

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The small boys, suffering from a broken and infected leg, offered to show the American Marines from a helicopter the base locations of the North Vietnamese units—but as the helicopter rolled in, it received a hail of automatic weapons fire from the surrounding hills. Later, he was taken to a U. S. field hospital where three American medical experts looked after him. He was the only cooperative, talkative prisoner of the thirteen that had been captured during the battle at that time.

Even before the capture of Hue, American Marines who have fought many hard battles in the northern part of the country, believed Chinese Communist forces had infiltrated. <sup>Here</sup> They no longer referred to their enemy as "~~Viet~~" "V. C." (for Viet Cong) or "Charlie"—but instead called them "gooks," the Korean War term for Chinese Communist forces. Vietnamese military officers have long said that a small number of Chinese Communists were in South Vietnam. The first serious report of this nature resulted from the battle of Binh Gia in December, 1964, when South Vietnamese forces were badly hit fifty miles southeast of Saigon. American officials dismissed the reports. Six months later, in the bloody battle of Dong ~~Xoi~~, sixty miles north of Saigon, Vietnamese commanders again reported hearing radio transmissions spoken in the Chinese ~~language~~. language.

Then, in the battle of Plei Me, in October, 1965, the first American soldier—a sergeant—reported killing what he described as a Chinese Communist soldier, because he was taller than the others and wore a more elaborate belt and pistol. High-ranking American officials in that area brushed the report aside.

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Eight months later, in June of this year, a Vietnamese Marine Regiment was ambushed between the northern cities of Hue and Quang Tri, some four hundred miles north of Saigon and <sup>twelve</sup> miles south of the demilitarized zone. An American Marine advisor with the Vietnamese unit described some of the Communist dead as Chinese, ~~accusing~~ <sup>REPORTED</sup> to an American general. A month later, American Marine units launched Operation Hastings and captured the small <sup>named</sup> town of Hue.

One American Marine, who said he thought he was fighting "the gooks," simply shrugged off the enormous political dimensions of the confrontation with the explanation, "I'd rather fight the Chicoms now than ten years from now when they have bigger nukes."

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In July, 1964, a similiar controversery arose between Vietnamese and American military interpretation of ~~intellig~~ intelligence information regarding the infiltration of organized units of the the North Vietnamese ~~army~~ <sup>F</sup> South Vietnamese generals, based on the interrogation of the first North Vietnamese prisoner captured in the South, said their country was being "invaded" in slow-motion <sup>"</sup> ~~means~~ from the North. American intelligence officers labelled these South Vietnamese generals as "sensationalist"; discounted the presence of <sup>o</sup> organized units of North Vietnamese troops as ~~well~~ ~~as the~~ ~~interrogation~~ and minimized the interrogation reports of the ~~North~~ Northern prisoners. Roughly half a year later, however, American ~~politic~~ <sup>2</sup> policy had swung not only to confirming the North Vietnamese units—but also <sup>to</sup> ~~for~~ direct American intervention to combat them. <sup>Substance of the</sup> ~~The~~ interrogation reports of North Vietnamese prisoners, which had earlier been minimized, was then <sup>the</sup> ~~published~~ published in an official ~~W~~ "white paper" justifying the American intervention.