

ZCZC sag

JY ljp

mobilize 1 (normass/deepe)

SAIGON, February 20--The spectacular Communist offensive helped President Nguyen Van Thieu in expediting his partial mobilization plan, but the sustained tempo of assaults and rocket attacks around the urban centers is putting a sizeable crimp into the implementation of the program.

The original Thieu plan for partial military mobilization was signed into decree law before ^{the October 31, 67 inauguration} the September Presidential elections in which he was ~~installed~~ ^{installed as} President. After the ^{National Assembly} ~~election~~ election, the two-house legislature questioned the ~~legitimz~~ ~~legitimacy~~ legitimacy of the decree law and took the executive branch to task for its rather stiff program. But, since the Communist offensive began January 30, the legislature has been much more amenable to Thieu's ~~pro~~ original program, as well as his expanded measures.

ZCZC sag

JY ljp

mobilize 2 (normass/deepe)

^{post-offensive}
The government's current ~~partial~~ ~~partial~~ mobilization plan calls for military, civil and political ~~mobilization~~ ~~military~~ ~~mobilization~~ mobilization, ^{including both human and material resources.}

On the ~~civil~~ civil side, ~~over~~ one hundred thousand government civil servants are to be trained for two weeks in the use of weapons and then be issued the weapons, presumably carbines and ~~other~~ obsolete ones handed down to them from the Vietnamese armed forces which is now to receive more American ~~M-14's~~ M-14's and M-16's. But, the curfews, imposed until the Viet Cong are wrinkled out of the Saigon perimeter, have limited the working hours of the government employees ~~already~~ and the central government apparatus is already strained simply taking care of the relief and recovery measures necessitated by the first-stage of the offensive.

--more reuter

zczo sag

yy ljp

mobilize 3 (normass/deepe)

In addition, 80,000 high school students and university students ~~unnum~~ beginning with age 15 are to be trained and also issued weapons, but the headaches for the government on this step is that the pupils are not now in ~~numnum~~ their classes, since most of the schools are still closed and many of the school buildings are used as centers for ~~reg-refugg~~ refugees whose homes have ~~been~~ been destroyed in the fighting.

On the political mobilization, an anti-Communist amalgamation of various groupings, political parties and religious blocs, previously factionalized with minor differences, has now taken the first tentative steps to ~~xxxx~~ support the government and to assist the government in enlisting the support of the Vietnamese population.

--more reuter

zczo sag

yy ljp

mobilize 4 (normass/deepe)

This political grouping, ~~numnum~~ designed to move towards a "Congress for National Salvation", is headed by Tran Van Don, a former army general who ~~led~~ ^{led} the overthrow of ~~Presene~~ President Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963 and currently a Senator; Lawyer Tran Van Tuyen, a former deputy prime minister in 1965 and leader of the Vietnam Quoc Dang Dang political party, and Tran Quoc Bui, the long-time leader of Vietnam's major labor union. ~~Thax~~ Dang Duc Khoi, formerly attached to the Vietnamese Embassy in Washington and now a member of the braintrust supporting Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky, was also one of the organizing members, reliable sources report.

The political organization, certainly ~~gaver~~ pro-government and anti-Communist in its outlook, if it is not government sponsored, is designed to unify various anti-Communist factions ~~to th~~ and to serve as a counterweight to the various fronts and alliances that have been established by the Viet Cong in the cities since the ~~tot~~ ^{Communist} offensive.

--more reuter

ZCZC 888

JY 1JP

mobilize ⁵ (Normass/deepe)

The first ~~of~~ organizational steps for the congress was held Sunday, February 18, and included a wide array of political personalities, including ~~political~~ candidates who lost to Thieu in the ^{presidential} election, such as elderly Phan Khac Suu and Tran Van Huong. The ~~the~~ government's ^{perennial} ~~perennial~~ oppositionist, Buddhist priest Tri Quang, was conspicuously absent, however, as were his vocal lieutenants.

The government's military mobilization has been sharply hit by the Viet Cong ~~offensive~~ offensive. The original government plan ~~was~~ to for all of 1968 was to increase the number of the Vietnamese armed forces by ~~at~~ total of 65,000 men. This ^{Plan} would have ~~at~~ jumped their 670,000-man force to 735,000 men. ^{as well as supplying} ~~also~~ replacements for desertions, ~~and~~ battlefield ~~casualty~~ casualties and those who had been demobilized ~~if~~ after five years service.

Now, the government ~~plans~~ plans to ~~such~~ expedite the training and recruiting of the 65,000 additional forces in the first six months of the year, instead of ~~stretching~~ ^{SOURCES} stretching it out for the full year. But, ~~the~~ government fears that a good number of these 65,000 will now have to be utilized as replacements for government losses during the offensive instead of jumping the overall troop strength ~~over the~~ 700 to 735,000 men.

--more reuter

zczo sag

yy ljp

~~mobilize~~

mobilize 6 (normass/deepe)

Overall government casualties during the offensive have yet to be tabulated. In the first ~~twere~~ twelve days of the offensive, the Vietnamese armed forces casualties were listed as 1755 killed, 5247 wounded and 147 missing or captured. But, these figures have since jumped with ~~evanham~~ as sketchy reports of events have accelerated; more difficult, ~~we~~ the government still has not ~~dis~~ discovered the ~~whereabouts~~ whereabouts of many soldiers who were not at their battlefield post during the offensive. Officials fear some of these, especially officers, suffered heavy losses at the hands of Viet Cong assassination squads; in Hue, for example, officials ~~bel~~ believe more than 30 Army officers were ~~executed~~ executed by the Viet Cong. Other officials ~~fee~~ feel unless the military situation is normalized dramatically, new draftees and recruits will be unwilling to report for their call-up. ^{Thirty per cent} ~~of~~ of the 65,000 who will ~~gon~~ go into training camps this month are expected to be reservists ~~wh~~ between the ages of 20 and 33 who have served less than five years in the armed forces, which will insure the government a high per cent initially, but draftees are needed for long-term ~~rebuild~~ additions for the military buildup.

Even if the government does meet ~~the~~ their numerical requirements, one problem now ~~is~~ arising is the condition of the training centers and boot camps ^{where} ~~where~~ they'll will be trained. For example, ~~thamnamhamnam~~ Quang Trung, ~~a~~ Vietnam's biggest boot camp, ^{in the Saigon} is currently ~~surround~~ surrounded by four Viet Cong battalions who liberally sprinkle it with mortars ^{as he} as they rocket Tan Son Nhut airbase with rockets on the other side. Officials report that the Vietnamese contingents ~~at~~ the training center are ~~is~~ separated by the Viet Cong units from an American HAWK ~~missile's~~ missile site only 500 yards away. Other training centers, such as at Hue, are feared to have suffered damage to facilities during the offensive--and many of the draftees have been launched into the battlefield for a "baptism of fire" from the Viet Cong before they were honored at graduation ceremonies,

end reuter