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focus 1 (normass/deepe)

SAIGON, MAY 25—The ~~Government~~ Communists are continuing their policy of using military attacks, executions and abductions to drive primitive Montagnard refugees from their resettlement ~~centers in~~ centers near district towns back into the jungled hills, where they can be used as Communist supply porters. In some cases, the Communists have loaded the primitive mountain tribesmen on trucks and ~~drive~~ driven them away towards Cambodia. This Communist policy gained world-wide attention late last year with the destruction of Dak Son ~~near~~ northwest northwest of Saigon near the Cambodian border. The policy has ~~not~~ continued without the glare of publicity since then. ~~Information~~

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focus 2 (normass/deepe)

In early May, Viet Cong entered the village of Bu Jiai in Phuoc Long province, burned all the 70 homes—the ashes smoldered for ten days, ~~eywi~~ eyewitnessers said—and then they forced 239 Montagnards—some of ~~Camboid~~ Cambodian origin—onto a dozen trucks and drove off towards the Cambodian border. An unknown number who ~~ru~~ refused the truck ~~ride~~ ride were executed on the spot.

On May 22, two local Viet Cong companies—C-103 and K16/C3 repeat ~~ly~~ K16/C3—~~attq~~ attacked ~~te~~ the refugee village of Phuoc Ninh, burned 52 of the 100 homes of the ~~170-1~~ 1700 ~~inhabit~~ inhabitants and ~~destroyed all the~~ ~~food in the village.~~ The village was saved when a company of the 33rd Vietnamese Ranger battalion rushed into the ~~vill~~ flaming area and drove out the Communists. Part of the Ranger success was credited to their unit's ~~sh~~ having just been issued M-16 rifles—and ~~the~~ surprised the Communists with the increased volume of firepower. Casualties were light on all sides. Three Viet Cong dead were left behind, but many blood trails lead into the jungle.

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for focus 3 (normass/deepe)

(Hank: I'll file a two-part series early Monday morning on the cabinet reshuffle. ~~Through~~ No sharp reaction is expecy expected from the Vietnamese military, so I plan to leave Monday after noon for Danang, at least ~~th~~ staying there through the week. Thanks for your cable earlier this week. I'll ~~go~~ ^{PLAN} arrange my vacation after my return from Danang, but ~~Intelligence~~ will try to arrange it with John Hughes schedule. I've also been taking one-day trips outside of Saigon and will hope to get some feature-type mailers off to you. Also, would you want a two-part seepager series profiling Long An province. I've been down there once and have just hand an excellent comprehensive p// briefing on their pilot pacification program? Many thanks Nik Wheeler photos. Regards Bev).

-end reuter