

# 3,000 More Marines for Viet

## MARINES

From Cable Dispatches

DA NANG,

South Viet Nam.

A 1,400-man U. S. Marine battalion—part of a new force of two combat battalions and a squadron of Marine F-4 Phantom jets ordered to Viet Nam—began landing early today on a beach ten miles north of this coastal city.

In foothills three miles away a Vietnamese Ranger company was in a firefight with Viet Cong guerrillas, but no enemy activity was detected around the landing at a spot designated Red Beach Two.

The arrival of the two battalions, jet pilots and crews will bring American strength in Viet Nam to 31,000 men, 1,500 of them Marines.

One of the new battalions will be stationed around the Da Nang air base 300 miles northeast of Saigon. The other will be sent to Hue, the ancient capital of Viet Nam, 50 miles northwest of Da Nang and only 50 miles south of the border with North Viet Nam.

Another 4,000 Marines landed at Da Nang last March 4 to help guard the air base there from which many raids on North Viet Nam originate.

A U. S. Embassy spokesman who yesterday disclosed the dispatching of the new force said the Marines and planes were requested by the South Vietnamese government in line with a policy of strengthening "our common effort in the weeks ahead."

Planes also are under way in Vietnam—the size of the South Vietnamese armed forces by 100,000 (and to a total of 350,000).

The Marines landed today in bright sunshine, coming in on landing craft from a flotilla about a mile offshore. The first boatloads of Marines deployed upon hitting the beach, but the remainder walked ashore.

Members of a Marine brigade on MARINES—P. 4

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man team who had landed earlier to survey the beach were in shorts sunning themselves when the other Marines began coming ashore.

The second battalion was expected to be put ashore within a few days.

A U. S. military source said that just as the landing started a Vietnamese Ranger company ran into a small Viet Cong group in the nearby hills. Three Rangers were wounded. The guerrilla force was believed no larger than platoon size and there was no fear the U. S. Marines would be hit.

Arrival of the new battalions would appear to bring the entire 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade—part of the 1st Marine Division on Okinawa—into Viet Nam. So far the brigade, commanded by Brig. Gen. Frederick Karch, has been responsible mainly for security of the Da Nang base.

But the introduction of larger forces indicates this role might be expanded. The area

between Da Nang and Saigon has been the scene of heavy fighting for the last three months.

On March 10, Beverly Depe, the Herald Tribune's Special Correspondent in Saigon, reported that up to 10,000 more American Marines would be coming to South Viet Nam, not only to defend major military installations, but possibly also to provide security for important cities.

Four Americans aboard a U. S. Army HU-1B helicopter were injured yesterday when the craft crashed on the main street of Da Nang only two blocks from the central market place. Two Vietnamese on the street were hurt when the helicopter broke in two.

Vietnamese Marines claimed another victory yesterday against Viet Cong guerrillas in Binh Dinh province about 200 miles northeast of Saigon. They reported killing 30 Communist troops in the second round of a fight that erupted Wednesday night.

In the first battle the Vietnamese Marines, with U. S. air support, said they killed more than 300 guerrillas. American advisers said Com-

munist casualties, including wounded, were well over 700. The Vietnamese Marines lost five killed and 27 wounded during the two engagements.

The Viet Cong fired six to eight mortar shells on the provincial capital of Qui Nhon, 270 miles northeast of Saigon, last night. First reports indicated a U. S. Army radio communications center was damaged, but apparently there were no American casualties. But three government troops were reported killed and 15 wounded.

The mortar attack, launched from a spot about 500 yards from a runway at Qui Nhon Airfield, ended quickly and was not followed up by a troop assault. A major Viet Cong attack on one of the cities in central Viet Nam had been expected for the last two weeks.

In Saigon reliable sources said Adm. Chung Tan Cang returned to power yesterday as Navy commander and three junior officers who led a mutiny against him fled.

Thursday it was reported that Adm. Cang, an associate of ousted strongman Lt. Gen. Nguyen Khanh, was ousted

by 30 junior officers with the blessing of the government and the military.

Then word filtered down that the mutiny had collapsed. There was a hint the mutineers did not have completely clean hands. Informants said they were backed by influential military elements, including the disgraced Col. Pham Ngoc Thao and Brig. Gen. Lam Van Phao.

Gen. Phao and Col. Thao have been in hiding since February, when they led an unsuccessful coup against Gen. Khanh, but the Armed Forces Council then ousted Gen. Khanh.

North Viet Nam protested yesterday to the International Control Commission against death sentences imposed by a South Vietnamese military tribunal on two Viet Cong saboteurs yesterday.

The Viet Cong Wednesday threatened to shoot a captive U. S. aid official, Gustaf C. Hertz of Leesburg, Va., if one of the saboteurs, Nguyen Van Hai, is executed. No date has been set for the execution of Hai, accused of bombing the U. S. Embassy in Saigon March 30.