

deeps

montagnard--newlead--page one

october 1, 1965

SAIGON--High-ranking Vietnamese officers fear an American political take-over in the strategic plateau bordering Laos following the recent arrival of the 15,000-man First Air Cavalry Division.

(More)

deepe
montagnard--newlead--page two

October 1, 1965

As the Americans dramatically expanded their military power in the strategic highland area, the military ~~contex~~ ² contest immediately was set between the elite First Air Cavalry ~~Calvar~~ ² Cavalry Division, supported by Vietnamese government forces, against the Viet Cong who use the ~~highland~~ ¹ jungled Highlands as infiltration routes from North Vietnam. Unlike other ~~z~~ ¹ areas where American combat units have been based, however, a third ³ paramilitary force ~~or 5~~ consists of the indigenous ~~me~~ ¹ Montagnards, who have been trained equipped and financed by the American Special Forces teams.

(More)

A year ago, some of these American-trained and equipped Montagnard tribesmen mutinied in five military camps against their Vietnamese superiors, massacred 31 Vietnamese and established a dissident political movement called FRONT UNIFIÉ POUR LA LIBÉRATION DE LA RACE meaning the Unified Front for the Liberation of the Oppressed Race. OPPRIMEE (FULRO). As Vietnamese government officials threatened to bomb their own tribal troops, the dissident movement was temporarily ~~quelled~~ ^{quiet} until last month when ^{two} ~~a~~ Vietnamese Marine ^{BATTALIONS} encircled and forced the peaceful surrender of ^{about} 300 of the armed Montagnard dissidents. Two other armed dissident ~~units~~ units, however, evaded government encirclement, and are still at large. This year, the name of the dissident movement was changed from the "Liberation" of the Oppressed Race"--a Communist-sounding ~~name~~ name to "the Struggle for the Oppressed Race."

(More)

deeps

montagnard--newlead--page 4

As the Americans expanded their military power in the strategic highland area, the question immediately arose whether they would also attempt to expand their political power--to gain increasing control over the Montang Montagnard population.

Vietnamese government officials have during the past year virtually charged that American officials are attempting to seize political control of the Montagnard population and military command of the jungled highlands, thus ~~que~~ squeezing the Saigon government influence off the plateau and shrinking the authority of the Vietnamese commanders. The tribal Montagnard tribesmen, who for years have hated the Vietnamese, are friendly to both the American officials and ~~the French~~ the French plantation owners, Catholic missionaries who ~~maintain~~ ^{maintain} a great deal of French cultural and economic influence over the ~~Montang~~ primitive tribesmen.

The Vietnamese government charges, dating back to last year's rebellion, indicated that the Americans--sometimes the charges included the Americans plus the French--are hence inciting the FULRO dissident movement to ask for an increasing number of demands from the Vietnamese government--demands which would shrink the influence of the Vietnamese government, such as appointment of Montagnard commanders of Montangard irregular units, Montagnard province chiefs, Montangard to be included in the Saigon government administration.

scope

Montagnard—new lead—page five

American officials, speaking officially, hotly deny this; a few speaking in private admit the American will eventually take direct ~~soj~~ control of the Montagnards because the Vietnamese government is either unwilling or ~~unincapb~~ incapable of meeting their demands, thus forcing the Montagnard population into the hands of the Communists. The ~~control~~ of the Montagnard training ^{ve} p military training program has been a sore point between the Vietnamese government and the American officials since the Americans first proposed training, and equipping the Montagnards in 1962; President Ngo Dinh Diem refused to allow the arming of the ~~Montan~~ Montagnards—even to fight the Communists coming across the Ho Chi Minh infiltration routes—fearing that one day the Montagnards would rebel against his own central government. He reluctantly allowed the Americans Special Forces to train the Montagnards, but he kept a personal watch on the program and Vietnamese Special Forces commanders working with the Americans reportedly directly to the President. Less than a year after Diem's fall in November, 1963, the ~~rebel~~ Montagnard rebel movement he feared ~~was~~ ^{already} was revolting against the new Saigon government.

~~Pa~~

Uppick page five , second paragraph x x x reliable observers. x x x

~~In ^{xxxxxx}xxxxxx and continue with rest of article.~~

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montagnard--newlead--page six

on page five, third paragraph, first sentence delete part beginning x x x the American military command x x x and replace with: "The American Military command in saigon la st August announced the formation of Task Force ~~Lay~~ Alpha, which has since ~~beg~~ been increased in x importance to a corps headquarters and re-named Headquarters Field Forces. ~~Headquar~~ This American corps headquarters would x x x

Continue with rest of article.