

SOUTH VIET NAM

New Guns & Old Problems

A new element of firepower joined the growing weight of U.S. arms in Viet Nam. Into the shoaling waters of South Viet Nam's east coast swept the stern destroyers of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, searching out Viet Cong concentrations with their hard-hitting 5-in. guns. In half a dozen operations, naval artillery soaked more than 370 rounds onto targets as deep as four miles inland. The big rifles proved effective: sharpshooting by the U.S.S. *Somers* broke the back of a Communist assault on a district headquarters in Binh Thuan province, killing twelve and wounding 20.

Tragic Crash. On the ground and in the air, U.S. and South Vietnamese forces kept up their pressure on the Reds in a grim race against the arrival of the monsoon season. Fighter-bombers swarmed daily over North Viet Nam, blasting bridges, shooting up road and rail traffic, igniting petroleum storage tanks and striking within 55 miles of Hanoi. For the Americans, there were moments of tragedy: a pair of U.S. helicopters collided over Bien Hoa airbase—the scene last month of an accidental chain explosion that killed 27 men and wrecked ten bombers. This time, nine Americans died.

There were troubles, too, in Saigon. As usual, they were regional and religious. Premier Phan Huy Quat precipitated a squabble with South Viet Nam's wispy Chief of State, Phan Khac Suu, by announcing his long-delayed Cabinet reshuffle. Quat replaced the Ministers of Interior and Economy with "northerners," and Suu, who was born in the southern Mekong Delta region, refused to accept the switch.

Trip Postponed. As if that weren't enough, the Premier was next challenged by an angry delegation of Catholics headed by fiery Father Hoang Quynh. Quynh was burning over Quat's arrests of Catholics following last month's "coup attempt" (TIME, May 28). He was particularly incensed at Quat's contention that the Catholics had been in league with the Viet Cong

in the plot. "Such a claim is ridiculous," Quynh snapped, "since Catholics would never work with Communists."

Quynh's militants demanded that Quat be dismissed, but since the Premier retains the support of the military and the nation's Buddhists, it was clearly the most serious crisis the government had faced since the abortive Feb. 19 coup. Indeed, it was serious enough for U.S. Ambassador Maxwell Taylor to postpone a trip to Washington until the situation settled down.

Despite the symptoms of instability, the U.S. remained as firm in its commitment as ever. Secretary of State Dean Rusk, questioned about the possibility of Russia and China joining forces in Viet Nam, issued a sober warning. "It would be a great mistake," said Rusk, "if the other side should think that they can have a larger war with impunity, and that a larger war on their side would remove us from Southeast Asia."

INDONESIA

Jingo Jamboree

Djakarta was all decked out for another political circus. Along the serene, sun-scorched boulevards of Indonesia's capital, the gaudiest splashes of color were billboards showing Uncle Sam stomping a few Negroes, handsome Asians engaged in a fierce tug of war with ugly white colonialists, a fearless President Sukarno hurling Malaysia's cringing Tunku Abdul Rahman into the Malacca Strait. Illuminated fountains tinkled merrily around the unfinished obelisk designed by Sukarno to commemorate 20 years of Indonesian independence. Across from the burnt-out shell of the British embassy, the Hotel Indonesia dispensed hot water, air conditioning and Palmolive soap in a futile attempt to insulate political delegates from the shabby city around them.

Relays of Runners. The occasion was the 45th anniversary of the *Partai Komunis Indonesia*, Asia's oldest Commu-

nist Party and, with 3,000,000 members, its second largest.* The P.K.I.'s jingo jamboree brought relays of runners bearing red and yellow flags into Djakarta from points as distant as Bali (560 miles), tied up the capital's Mercedes and *bejak* (pedicab) traffic for three hours with a torchlight parade that ended in an effigy-burning of Uncle Sam and the Tunku. Over the whole scene reared a 40-ft. hammer and sickle woven from straw and bamboo.

Appearing at the stadium named in his honor, Bung (Brother) Karno applauded the P.K.I. as "a very important factor in the Indonesian revolution." His 35-minute speech drew cheers from such honored guests as the Red Chinese, Albanian, North Vietnamese and Cuban delegations. And the U.S. (which has granted Indonesia \$896 million in aid) observed the occasion with an ambassadorial switch. American Ambassador Howard Palfrey Jones, 66, a seven-year veteran of the Bung's bombast, of whom it has been said, "Sukarno perhaps understood Jones better than Jones understood Sukarno," departed, with U.S.-Indonesian relations at their lowest ebb since 1958—a fact that clearly delighted the Communists.

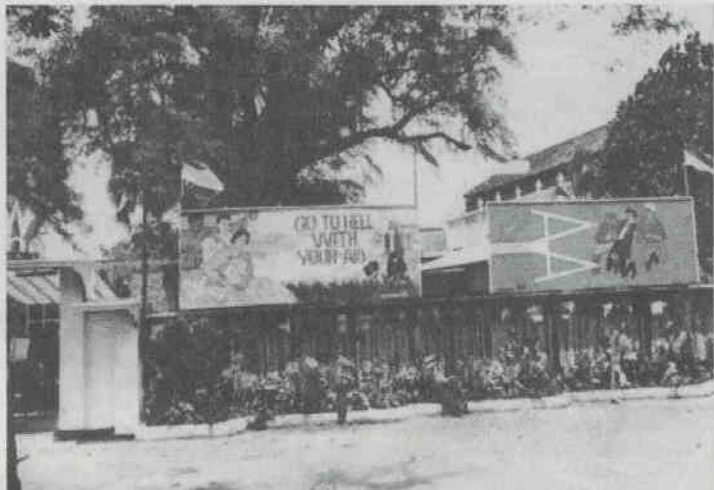
In their own speeches, P.K.I. officials pressed Sukarno for elections at the village level, confident that they could win control of Java, which represents 70% of Indonesia's 104 million population. Party Boss D. N. Aidit suggested that Indonesia's 412,000-man armed forces be "supervised" by politically oriented NASAKOM ("guided democracy") cadres, which the P.K.I. believes it could dominate. That seemed all right with Sukarno. "Go ahead," he urged the P.K.I. "Go onward and never retreat."

Plenty to Celebrate. The main theme of the week, of course, was "crush Malaysia," and Sukarno's invaders were trying to do just that. In the biggest ac-

* Surpassed only by Red China's 18 million.



SUKARNO ORATING



DJAKARTA STREET SCENE

To insulate the political types, give them air conditioning, Palmolive and circuses.