



AMERICAN DIVISION men hastily unload a resupply helicopter under fire of North Vietnamese 30 miles south of Da Nang. U.S. forces were trying to

reach the site of a downed command helicopter. (AP Wirephoto by radio from Saigon)

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Red Armored Column Said Along Border

SAIGON (AP) — U.S. Air Force transport planes have flown 18 armored personnel carriers and six antitank guns to the Bu Dop Special Forces camp 80 miles north of Saigon following intelligence reports that enemy armored columns were heard moving along the Cambodian border.

Sources who reported this said they did not know whether anyone had actually seen enemy tanks or armored personnel carriers in the border area.

Reds Use Tanks

North Vietnamese troops have used light amphibious tanks to spearhead infantry assaults on isolated American Special Forces camps along the Cambodian and Laotian borders, but these have been much farther north of Saigon.

With the enemy's fall campaign going into its third week today, the enemy attacks dropped off 44 per cent last week from the opening week of the campaign, but they were still 68 per cent higher than the year's low, U.S. Command sources said.

But American sources said they anticipate another round of intensified attacks about Sept. 1.

One American report summing up the situation from Saigon north to the Cambodian border said: "We feel the enemy has used the period of decreased activity since the peak of action Aug. 11-12 to refit, prepare and position his forces. The present disposition of the enemy's divisional elements suggests that the next major effort will again be in the northern provinces 55 to 80 miles north of Saigon."

During the first week of the campaign that began on the night of Aug. 11, the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese averaged 45 rocket and mortar attacks a day. The daily average dropped to 25 last week.