

MOON TREK ENDS

Men Reach Surveyor, Collect Parts

Bloody Hanoi Reprisals Feared in S. Vietnam

BY HARRY TRIMBORN

Times Staff Writer

SAIGON—Le Xuan Chuyen is convinced he will be a dead man if the Communists take over South Vietnam after U.S. troops leave the country.

Chuyen is one of the highest ranking North Vietnamese army defectors to join the allied side.

Until his defection in August, 1968, Chuyen was a lieutenant colonel in the North Vietnam army and a 21-year member of the North Vietnamese Communist Party.

As a defector—one of 133,000 who joined the allied side since 1963—Chuyen believes he is among an estimated 3 million persons on whom the Communists claim a "blood debt" for aiding the South Vietnamese government and its allies.

The "blood debt" could mean executions of pogrom proportions or some form of reprisal, repression or indoctrination.

Withdrawal Brake

To many observers it represents one of the most telling arguments against a precipitous U.S. withdrawal from South Vietnam. President Nixon voiced this fear in his Nov. 3 Vietnam policy speech.

Yet many others, both in the United States and Vietnam, doubt the existence of a "blood debt." Their argument is that the Communists, even if they should gain control of South Vietnam, are weary of the bloodletting, concerned about adverse world opinion and would be intent on healing the nation's wounds rather than creating new ones.

3 Vietnam Veterans Say They Saw U.S. Troops Kill Civilians

CLEVELAND (AP)—Three Vietnam war veterans said Wednesday they had witnessed the slaying of Vietnamese civilians by American troops. One said the slayings ran into the hundreds and another produced pictures which he said showed victims of the slaughter.

A former Army combat photographer, Ronald L. Rabe, 28, of Cleveland, told in a copyrighted story in the Cleveland Plain Dealer of witnessing the slaying of about

100 civilians at the hamlet of My Lai No. 4 on March 16, 1968.

The paper also ran his photographs showing Vietnamese bodies strewn on a path, a man and a child lying dead along a road, the bodies of an adult and a child in the doorway of a building, an American soldier throwing baskets into a burning hut with bodies nearby, a GI in a rice paddy firing an M-16 rifle and about half a dozen men, women and children standing with frightened expressions on their faces. The caption under the photo said that minutes later, the group was dead.

Sgt. Michael Bernhardt said in an interview at Ft. Dix, N.J., that he saw U.S. soldiers kill hundreds of South Vietnamese men, women and children in the village of My Lai in March, 1968.

In a separate interview, Michael B. Terry, 22, of Orem, Utah, a Vietnam veteran now studying at Brigham Young University, told of being in a cleanup platoon in the area where the alleged slayings took place and seeing a woman shot.

Lt. William L. Calley Jr., Miami, Fla., and S. Sgt. David Mitchell, St. Francisville, La., have been charged in the case. Calley faces a possible court-martial on murder charges, and Mitchell is accused of assault with intent to commit murder.

An Army attorney with the adjutant general's office at Ft. Benning, Ga., confirmed that Rabeber was present in the hamlet as

Yorby Proposes Part-Time Role for City Council

Would Draw Members From Business, Industry, Labor and Professions

BY JULIAN HARTT

Times Staff Writer

Mayor Sam Yorby Wednesday proposed a part-time City Council—drawing up men from business, industry, labor and the professions—instead of full-time "ward politicians" . . . who want to be ward bosses.

He raised the possibility of an initiative and referendum to achieve that change in the City Charter if the City Council does not put presently proposed revisions before the electorate.

"And I don't think there is much chance of getting the council to put

Councilmen angrily reject proposal by Yorby. See Page 23, Part 1.

reform on the ballot," Yorby said before the annual Mayor's Day luncheon of the Junior Chamber of Commerce at the Athletic Club.

He said that was because changes proposed by the Charter Commission would "reduce their power to some extent" while "some, not all" councilmen constitute a "clique (interested in) setting up a ward system."

Yorby's virtual open declaration of war with the City Council came unexpectedly during a question-and-answer period after his prepared talk on "The State of the City."

Singles Out Wilkinson

He was at odds with the council during his first term in 1961-63 and had enjoyed a relatively peaceful relationship during his second term until this year's third-term campaign. Since then, bitterness has reached new heights.

The mayor singled out Robert M. Wilkinson, 12th District councilman who opposed him in last spring's primary, in his allegations of ward-healing tactics.

Wilkinson spearheaded the fight in last month that ended with rejection of Yorby's appointment of Albert F. Bush, UCLA engineering professor, to the Board of Public Works.

The councilman, in whose district Bush lives, described him as "personally repugnant." Others voting with Wilkinson made it clear that

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A PARTING "SHOT"—The ascent stage of the Intrepid lunar craft will be sent crashing into the surface of the moon this afternoon after Charles Conrad Jr. and Alan L. Bean have safely rejoined Richard F. Gordon Jr. in the Yankee Clipper command module. The ascent stage is to hit moon about nine miles from landing site to test seismic equipment left by astronauts.

Times drawing by Russell Aronson

THE SHOW DOESN'T GO ON

They Hit It With a Hammer but Light Did TV Camera In

BY NICHOLAS C. CHRIS

Times Staff Writer

HOUSTON—An estimated 30 million persons, including Becky Boland in Houston, watched in fascination Wednesday as astronaut Charles Conrad Jr. became the third man to set foot on the moon.

But like the millions of other viewers, Becky was in for a major disappointment—the color television camera on the moon went awry. In the pre-dawn drama, Becky walked into her mother's bedroom and announced: "Mother, those dum-dums broke the television camera."

No one at the Manned Spacecraft Center here is saying astronauts Conrad and Alan L. Bean broke the camera (although they did rap it with a hammer). But the logical explanation is that a blast of high-intensity light, probably from the sun or the sun's reflection, accidentally struck the camera lens, damaging the seven-inch image tube inside.

The image tube is the most important component in the camera. It is highly sensitive to low-level light, permitting it to operate in near darkness, as it did during the Apollo 11 mission.

By the same token it is extremely sensitive to high-intensity light and one brief exposure can damage it severely. It would have been easy enough for Conrad and Bean accidentally to turn the camera lens at an improper angle exposing it to sunlight.

A spokesman for Westinghouse, which made the camera, said the "tube was pretty badly damaged." A similar explanation came from officials at the Space Center here. (Come viewers saw the quick burst of light that apparently damaged the tube and ended the television program after only 40 minutes.

Will Be Returned

Wednesday night during their second moon walk the astronauts tried to use the camera again, but found it would not work. They packed it in a bag and prepared to bring it back to earth for study.

The camera failure came as Bean tried to place it on a tripod. Shortly after it went out Bean and Conrad took some remedial action.

They rapped the camera several times on the top with a hammer. "I don't think that did much good," one spokesman said here. "However," he added, "the tube had probably already blown out so it didn't make much difference."

"I suppose it was probably Al Bean who rapped it," one official said. "He was the one working on it but Pete (Conrad) mentioned he used the hammer. Both were working on it and they tapped it lightly several times."

Astronauts Return to Spacecraft

BY MARVIN MILES and RUDY ABRAMSON

Times Staff Writers

HOUSTON—Apollo 12 astronauts reached the desolate Surveyor 3 spacecraft in a lunar crater late Wednesday night, cut off Surveyor's television camera in the climax of an amazing space success story and exulted:

"It's ours! We got her! Beautiful!"

Charles Conrad Jr. and Alan L. Bean found the photographic robot much the same as it had been when it quit sending pictures to earth 31 months ago from the Ocean of Storms.

It was covered with fine dust, parched by the glaring sun and firmly planted in the soft dirt about 50 feet below the rim of the crater where it made its triple-bounce landing in April, 1967.

Recovery of the television camera added important scientific value and marked the high point of the mission. Bean packed it carefully into a knapsack on Conrad's back with a shout heard by millions: "In the bag! It's in the bag!"

Scop Also Snipped Off

The astronauts also snipped off Surveyor's tiny scop, the first man-made instrument to sample the crust of the moon.

The explorers spent more than half an hour working around the three-legged spacecraft, taking pictures of its footpads, its central systems and the trenches it dug on the moon.

The astronauts entered the crater from its southwest rim and made their way around its sloping walls to the robot Surveyor with little difficulty about two hours after starting their second moon walk.

Scientists consider Surveyor important because it gives them their first measure of the effects of lunar environment on a man-made object. Measured by changes in parts of the robot returned to earth and by a comparison of site photographs taken Wednesday with those sent by Surveyor in 1967.

Unnecessary Risks Learned

Apollo program officials had made the Surveyor inspection a low-priority assignment in the moon mission, fearing that the crewmen might take undue risks to reach the Prize.

But even though the little spacecraft was low-priority, reaching it was the greatest psychological triumph of the mission.

Conrad and Bean took a roundabout way to the Surveyor site, stopping off there as they turned back toward the lunar module Intrepid. After their return to the lunar lander they began preparations for their launch from the moon at 8:23 a.m. PST today.

In this surface venture, as on their first moon walk early Wednesday, the astronauts were as exuberant as two kids in a candy store working through two four-hour excursions.

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THE WEATHER

Light smog today. U.S. Weather Bureau forecast: Hazy sunshine today and Friday. High today, 32. High Wednesday, 79; low, 48.

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