

Mine Explosion In Vietnam Kills 19 U.S. Personnel

SAIGON (UPI) — The U.S. Command said Saturday 19 Americans and one South Vietnamese were known dead in a mine explosion which wrecked the U.S. Navy LST Westchester County in the Mekong Delta. Spokesmen said four Americans and one South Vietnamese still were missing.

The bodies of three American infantrymen who were aboard the vessel when it was hit Friday were found Saturday. They were attached to the 9th Infantry Division.

Sixteen of the victims were U.S. Navy men.

Twenty-three men were wounded when the mine, apparently dropped into the water by Viet Cong frogmen, blew two big holes in the hull of the ship.

The LST was lying at anchor on the My Tho River about 34 miles southwest of Saigon when it was hit.

Militant French Students Label Reform Plan as 'Plot'

By MARTIN STUART-FOX

PARIS (UPI)—The militant students who led the demonstrations of May and June consider the proposed reform of the antiquated French educational system nothing more than an elaborate plot by the De Gaulle government.

They are not satisfied—and they threaten further action.

The law proposes to decentralize the state-run universities, introduce a degree of student participation in administration university affairs and allow the dissemination of political information within the universities.

THE RADICAL students demand complete financial and administrative autonomy, student control rather than participation, and the right to uninhibited political activity within the universities.

"The battle will be joined again . . . when the academic year starts, when the students will again be in class," Jacques Sauvageot, vice-president of the

French National Students Union (UNEF) said.

"We have to create inside the university a certain number of points of rupture, to maintain a certain number of bastions. The university must become the focus of the student struggle, in liaison with the workers."

UNEF, one of the spearheads of the student unrest last spring, is categorically opposed to the reform, Sauvageot said.

A **TYPICAL** militant reaction to the reforms was that of a young student selling leftist newspapers outside the Sorbonne: "The reforms are nothing. We are against the participation. It is a joke. We are in the minority. The government and the professors are against us. We will continue the struggle," he said.

The reforms that Education Minister Edgar Faure has succeeded in pushing through the National Assembly do not go far enough for the leftwing extremists among the students.

Conservative opposition to the proposed reforms also has been intense but since the educational reform bill is certain to become law the conservatives are learning to live with it.

The ease with which the bill passed the National Assembly (on a unanimous vote with only 33 Communists and six Conservative Guallists abstaining) has engendered suspicion.

"This law, it is too beautiful. I distrust it," a medical student from Grenoble told UPI. "We know there was a lot of disagreement. How is it that they all voted yes? There must be something beneath it all, some words with a double meaning. I don't trust them."

HE GAVE this conclusion: "It's disgusting. But it is fair."

The lines are drawn between the militant students and the conservative elements within the government; backed up to some extent by a rightwing student group calling itself "occident" and specializing in fanatical anti-communism.

Between these two extremes lies the vast majority of French students.

"Among the mass of the students you must distinguish between those who are interested and participated in the reforms of May and June, and the rest, the great majority," Jean-Philippe Haehl, one of the student leaders at Lyon, declared.

"The former want to apply the reforms as well as possible without falling into the extremes of the left or the right. As for the others, the enormous majority, it is a case of total apathy, a

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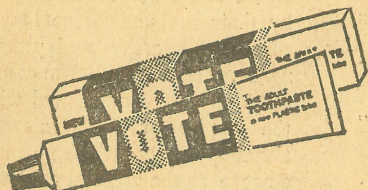
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leaders at Lyon, declared.

"The former want to apply the reforms as well as possible without falling into the extremes of the left or the right. As for the others, the enormous majority, it is a case of total apathy, a quasi-general lack of interest. We never see them."

It is this immense apathy, more than extremist attempts at sabotage and the obstructionism of the conservatives, that promises to reduce the reforms to impotence.

UNEF, for all its vocal opposition to the reform bill, has refrained from stating that it will boycott the student elections to the key tripartite councils that will administer university affairs. These councils will be composed of teachers, students and "interested outsiders" appointed by the government. The students thus will be in a minority on the councils and this the militants oppose.

Both the extremists and the conservatives have criticized the councils for much the same reasons. The extremists say professors and outsiders will gang up and outvote them, while the conservatives say the students and left wing teachers will combine to outvote the government and make the university a "state within a state" outside government control.

The tripartite councils form the basis of the French University reform. At least 60 per cent of the student body must vote for student representatives.

STUDENTS generally approve of the administrative autonomy granted to regional universities, but some students think this would have little effect in Paris where the universities are too much under the eye of the government.

As for the promise of increased political liberty within the universities, one student noted cynically that "they have not said political liberty, but liberty of political information. One does not really quite know what they mean by that."

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