

McNamara Calls New Actions Reply to New Red Shipments

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The United States has increased the "tempo and intensity" of the Vietnam war because North Vietnam has stepped up the shipment of supplies southward, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara said yesterday.

As a result of the increased activity, McNamara said, Communist fatalities in South Vietnam are 40 to 50 per cent higher than in 1966.

McNamara and Secretary of State Dean Rusk reported to newsmen following a Cabinet meeting at the White House. Both acknowledged that strong-

er measures are being taken by American forces and declared that there also is increased activity in the North.

It was assumed here that President Johnson asked them to make the public statements in order further to make clear America's position on this controversial problem of the stepped-up military pressure against the Communists in Vietnam.

Two days ago, President Johnson himself had unexpectedly invited reporters into his office for a press conference in which he dealt with the reasons for "more far-reaching" American operations.

Rusk said that he could report no moves "by the other side pointing toward a peaceful settlement."

Rusk called "very important" a statement in a newspaper interview last week by Mai Van Bo, Hanoi's representative in Paris, declaring that the United States must unconditionally stop the bombing

but promising no reciprocal moves by North Vietnam.

Rusk reiterated that the United States is prepared to stop the bombing if there are corresponding steps by North Vietnam.

But both he and McNamara again said that the attacks on the North would continue unless there was some reciprocal act by the North.

Declaring that "we have seen evidence" of new Communist efforts to supply the South, Rusk said: "We have taken additional measures to slow it down."

"We are determined to do our best to support our men out there and to resist aggression," Rusk said.

The Secretary of State emphasized again that the United

States was prepared for unconditional negotiations. He also said it was prepared to discuss any subject including the exchange of prisoners and the demilitarized zone.

McNamara said that there now are 415,000 U.S. military men in South Vietnam. This increase in strength, he said, has permitted an increased rate of operations.