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## More Massive Raids on North Expected Soon

By Peter A. Jay

Washington Post Foreign Service

**SALON, Jan. 1.**— The five days of raids on North Vietnam by American aircraft last week underscored once again what has been growing ever clearer in recent months: For the United States, the war is now in the air.

American ground troops, 150,000 or so, have been engaged almost entirely in protecting cities, towns and villages from Communist attacks. The ground forces have been unable to withdraw today.

But the air war has been a week of heavy attacks on the highlands near where the border and can be seen only at night over the Vietnamese, Laos and Cambodia. The ground forces have been unable to withdraw today.

# More Heavy Bombing Of North Is Expected

RAIDS, From A1

There is some question here, though, about where steps like those taken by the United States last week are likely to lead.

If the United States appears to be claiming a victory and getting away with it, some form of North Vietnamese counterattack is almost certain—even if all it can gain is publicity.

After the invasion of Laos by the South Vietnamese last spring—an operation which both Saigon and Washington contended had hurt the enemy badly—the North Vietnamese launched heavy attacks in the highlands near where the borders of South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia join.

Such attacks may come again soon, South Vietnamese sources predicted recently. Last week all South Vietnamese forces in the 2d (Central Highlands) Military Region were placed on alert and con-

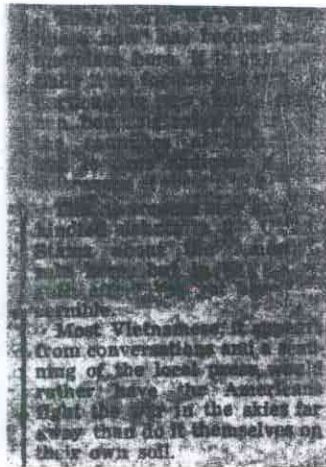
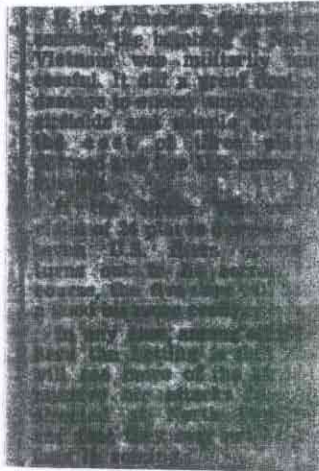
fined to their bases, it was learned today.

American military sources, who readily admit they are guessing, say the next strong North Vietnamese pressure could just as well come in Laos—where Communist forces are already advancing in both the North and South—or in Cambodia.

Today, however, South Vietnamese and U.S. military briefers described a generally quiet situation in Indochina.

During the New Year truce period, the South Vietnamese reported 20 enemy attacks against their units resulting in eight killed, including two civilians. Sixteen enemy were reported killed in the same period.

The Americans reported only one truce violation, a mortar attack on a U.S. convoy traveling from Danang to Hue yesterday. The command said no casualties and no damage resulted.



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