

# 'No Decision' Made To Bomb Haiphong Or Hanoi, Ball Says

*P. K. USTIN*  
Under Secretary of State George W. Ball said yesterday that there has been "no decision" by the United States to bomb Haiphong, or to bomb petroleum and oil installations either in the port city or in Hanoi.

His answer to a question about whether he was foreclosing the possibility of such a decision was, "I was not, no, not at all."

Answering questions on the "Meet the Press" television panel (NBC, WRC), Ball said he was departing from a policy of silence about operational matters because of extensive public discussion about possible escalation of the war against North Vietnam.

He denied charges by Hanoi that the United States has been bombing the North Vietnamese irrigation system "as a target." Occasionally, he acknowledged, a dike or a dam may have been hit as an incident to bombing of military objectives.

Opposition to bombing oil installations in the Haiphong area was expressed by Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) in response to TV newsmen's questions on "Issues and Answers" (ABC, WMAL).

He said that such bombing would not curb the flow of men and materials from North to South Vietnam, carries the "extremely dangerous" risk of hitting Russian ships and extends the war in the North although it will be won or lost in the South.

Ball said a June 18 statement by the President — that

"We must continue to raise the cost of aggression at its source" — was "not an ultimatum."

"What we have tried to do with Hanoi from the beginning," he said, "is to make clear to them that the game wasn't worth the candle. . ."

Kennedy and Ball were in agreement that at present the Communists do not want negotiations. "The line that they have been taking seems to us to be quite as hard as it has been at any time," Ball said.

Kennedy saw some indications that the war in Vietnam could hurt the Democrats in the November elections, but that much depends on how Republicans handle the issue.

In a program taped for New York State stations, Sen. Jacob K. Javits (R-N.Y.) said that Vietnam will not be a big election issue in November unless President Johnson "falls on his face" in efforts to get a civilian government in Saigon. He said the GOP will make a political mistake if it "waves



Associated Press

**LUCK RUNS OUT**—Tommy Cole, center, an Army medic from Richmond, whose bandaged face became familiar to millions last January when pictured by the Associated Press, smiles in a South Vietnam

hospital with two wounded buddies of the 1st Air Cavalry. Cole had taken part in every major unit action since until last Thursday, when he was wounded again. A bullet shattered his arm and thigh.

the bloody shirt or fights for escalation" of the war.

Turning to the 1968 elec-

tions, Kennedy said he would not conceive of a Democratic ticket other than that of Mr.

Johnson and Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey. He said he would support them both.