

U.S. Bombs North Again; Heaviest Raid in Weeks

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From News Dispatches

SAIGON, March 5—American pilots, taking advantage of clearing weather, staged the heaviest attack on North Vietnam in more than a month Saturday, the U. S. Command said today.

Air Forces and Navy jets flew 110 strike and armed reconnaissance missions. Murky weather has kept missions down to about 50 a day since January.

The cruiser Canberra and the destroyer Joseph Strauss of the U. S. 7th Fleet lay off the shore of North Vietnam and shelled fuel storage areas. The destroyer Benner fired on storage areas and shore batteries.

Highways Severed

The planes went after supply routes and storage areas in the southern panhandle. Pilots reported severing highways and starting a huge fire at an oil storage depot just north of the Demilitarized Zone.

The North Vietnam news agency claimed that a pilotless American reconnaissance plane was shot down over Hanoi today.

Ground action in the south slackened over the weekend. U.S. Marines reported finding 43 more bodies Saturday and Sunday in the DMZ area, bringing the total of enemy dead since the beginning of Operation Prairie II on Feb. 1 to 523.

16 Ground Operations

Currently three are 16 announced Allied ground operations under way. The largest is in the enemy stronghold of War Zone C, 60 miles northwest of Saigon, where only

light contact was reported today.

To the north, near the central coast port of Quinhon South Koreans terminated their 60-day operation, code named Fierce Tiger. The Koreans claimed 211 enemy killed, 403 captured and 67 weapons seized.

A Korean spokesman said the operation also opened up the main highway between Quinhon and Songcau, extending government control over 20,000 Vietnamese.

Nigeria Requests U.S. Assistance

Reuters

LAGOS, Nigeria, March 5—Nigeria has appealed to the United States to assist in the rehabilitation of millions of Nigerians made homeless as a result of tribal and political disturbances last year.

The appeal was made yesterday by Sir Mobolaji Bank Anthony, chairman of the National Rehabilitation Commission, during a meeting with U.S. Rep. Joseph Y. Resnick (D-N.Y.), now visiting the country.

Mobolaji told Resnick that funds already made available by the federal Nigerian government were inadequate for resettling the displaced persons, who needed accommodation, employment and education for their children.

Anti-Mafia Protest

Reuters

PARTANNA, Sicily, March 5—About 2000 anti-Mafia demonstrators gathered here today for a six-day march against poverty, for which they blame the Mafia.