

MAY 9 1972

Feud Seen In Relief Of General

SFChronicle

Washington

General John Lavelle, former commander of U.S. Air Forces in Southeast Asia, was relieved of his command and retired because his pilots took unnecessary risks in bombing targets over Indochina, it was reported last night.

According to the Washington Evening Star newspaper, some of Lavelle's pilots flew below an altitude limit set by the Joint Chiefs of Staff for certain dangerous areas of Laos and North Vietnam.

The newspaper said he was relieved of his command and retired from the service as a result of a bitter personal conflict with General John Ryan, the Air Force Chief of Staff.

An official announcement early last month said Lavelle, 55, was leaving the service for personal and health reasons. He is understood to suffer from emphysema, an acute lung disease.

Reuters