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Nixon OKs Demotion Of Lavelle

WASHINGTON — (UPI)

— President Nixon says efforts to end the Vietnam war were not hindered by the unauthorized U.S. bombing raids ordered by Air Force Gen. John D. Lavelle.

Nixon also said he believed that the penalties meted out to Lavelle would prevent any further occurrence of military disobedience to a presidential order.

Lavelle was relieved of his command, demoted from four-star general to three stars and retired.

Congressional testimony of Adm. Thomas H. Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was that it would be impossible to tell from Lavelle's field reports whether he ordered unauthorized bombing raids.

"No, sir. The reports did not indicate that the strikes were other than in accordance with current instructions," Moorer said.