

# 'No More

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# Lavelles,

# Vows Laird

WASHINGTON -- (UPI) -- Defense Secretary Melvin Laird said today new steps are being taken to prevent any more such incidents as Gen. John Lavelle's unauthorized bombing raids on North Vietnam.

Laird also said the military retirement system -- which also came under attack as a result of the Lavelle incident -- may have been abused and be in need of reform.

During an informal meeting with reporters, Laird said he had set up a Pentagon watchdog unit to improve civilian control over the military and to prevent repetition of any actions such as those Lavelle is said to have taken.

### Reports Falsified

Lavelle was forced into retirement after it was disclosed that he ordered air raids on North Vietnam between November, 1971, and last March, when the U.S. attacks were banned except for so-called protective reaction strikes.

Official reports of the raids were said to have been falsified.

Laird said that with tighter Pentagon procedures being instituted "I am confident that any deviation from operating authorities or false reporting will be promptly detected and that, indeed, a recurrence of the (Lavelle) incident . . . is highly unlikely."

### Retirement Setup

Laird also indicated he might agree with some congressional criticism of the retirement system under which Lavelle retired with a 70 percent disability rating, and a tax break, even though he was collecting flight pay up to near his retirement date.

Congressional critics have said Lavelle's retirement situation was not unique among generals leaving active service.