

New Moves to Halt War Funds

Washington

Another congressional start was made yesterday to end United States involvement in Indochina by cutting off money, withdrawing U.S. troops and stopping the bombing completely.

Amendments which may be offered to any of several annual defense measures were introduced by 30 members in the House and seven senators.

"What is going on is carnage," said the chief Senate sponsor, Mike Gravel, holding up anti-personnel bombing devices at a news conference.

"The time is long past for lengthy speeches on this war," added Senator Walter Mondale (Dem-Minn.). "The Senate may debate or alter the details of our amendment. But in the end, it will all come down to the basic question: do we let this nightmare continue?"

The amendment requires that all U.S. troops be withdrawn within 30 days of enactment, Mondale said, in exchange for American prisoners. Money for bombing anywhere in the Vietnam war theater would be cut off immediately, except for direct support of withdrawing U.S. troops.

Pentagon sources said bombers are flying an average of 350 attack sorties a day against enemy targets in Indochina this year.

The level of attacks is slightly below what it was at this time last year.

The planes flew nearly 21,000 sorties in January and February and dropped 125,000 tons of bombs over targets in South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and North Vietnam, the sources said. The rate is continuing at about the same pace this month, they noted.

Neither the House nor Senate has voted to cut off

funds for the war with the closest effort failing by one vote in the Senate last June.

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield expects to try again for a fixed withdrawal date which has passed the Senate three times but was watered down each time in conference with the House. *Associated Press*