

JAN 8 1974
SFChronicle
Saigon Told

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Not to Count
On Bombing

Saigon

The South Vietnamese government has been informed that renewed American air support is a very unlikely possibility even in the event of an all-out Communist offensive.

This was reiterated privately yesterday by authoritative sources in Saigon after a statement in Washington by U.S. Defense secretary James Schlesinger.

Schlesinger, speaking on a local Washington television show, said that it is "highly likely" the administration will ask congressional approval for renewed bombing if Hanoi launched another all-out offensive in South Vietnam.

Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, recognizing the current congressional ban on U.S. combat actions in Indochina, had earlier stated that in the event of a new Hanoi offensive the administration would take action "only in accordance with the provisions of both the joint resolution and existing legislation."

It appeared evident that the administration, while recognizing congressional limitation, was still trying to keep the threat of renewed bombing alive as a damper on Hanoi's quite possible offensive intentions.

A somewhat different picture has been presented to South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu by U.S. Ambassador Graham Martin.

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