

Memo

✓ Nix Ad
Indochina
POWs

file 8 Nov 71

Between 8 Nov 71 and 8 Mar 72, Gen. John Lavelle, commander of U.S. air forces in Vietnam, ordered 28 missions involving 147 strikes by individual planes against unauthorized targets in North Vietnam, in violation of official policy. See chronology, filed HRC under date of 10 Feb 72.

Investigation of this matter was completed by May 72 (no date yet HRC date it was begun).

Lavelle was recalled (no date) and he was fired and dated on 7 Apr 72. See transcript of RPTA News filed Nix Ad (Lavelle) 12 Jun 72, excerpt:

"... In addition to the question of command and control, other more serious questions were raised by the Lavelle affair. With daily debriefing of pilots taking place, how could the White House not have been aware of the offensive bombings? If the White House did know, were officials deliberately lying about the then policy of no offensive bombings? Did the offensive bombings and their vehement denial by high officials* have any effect on the break-off in the Paris peace talks and on the latest round of escalations? At the White House press briefing today [12 Jun], press officer Gerald Warren refused to comment on any of these questions."

*See Nix Ad