

2 Goals in New Raids --Supply Dumps on The List of Targets

Times-Post Service

Washington

The United States has resumed limited bombing of North Vietnam by putting some supply dumps back on the target list.

Pentagon officials confirmed last night that such supply dumps, as well as anti-aircraft sites, have been hit in recent bombing raids.

They said the stepped-up air activity over North Vietnam has the twin objectives of protecting President Nixon's Vietnamization program and pushing Hanoi into serious negotiation to end the war.

Vice President Spiro Agnew said on the CBS "Face the Nation" television program yesterday that the large bombing raid over the weekend, involving about 120 planes, was part of "what we call protective reaction."

CHANGE

The North Vietnamese government has charged that the raid violated the bombing halt of Nov. 1, 1968.

Hanoi claims that two American bombers were shot down over North Vietnam yesterday and another two on Saturday. Such a toll of four would compare with the 11 losses reported by the American military command since the bombing halt.

White House officials insist that President Nixon's new military moves — such as the ground assaults against enemy bases in Cambodia and the bombing—are not an American intensification of the war.

Many Vietnam war critics take an opposite view. The weekend bombing raids against the North will fuel the controversy in Congress.

TARGETS

Targets of this new bombing of the North have been limited so far to anti-aircraft installations and supplies be-

low Dong Hoi, about 45 miles above the demilitarized zone separating North and South Vietnam.

The choicer supply centers farther up the panhandle, like Vinh, are apparently still off limits to Air Force and Navy fighter-bombers.

President Nixon, in bombing some stockpiles north of the DMZ, appears to have taken a step back toward President Johnson's limited bombing policy.

President Johnson — in first restricting the bombing of the north to the area below the 20th parallel before calling a total halt — said the tar-

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gets hit would be those north of the DMZ "where the continuing enemy buildup directly threatens Allied forward positions and where the movements of their troops and supplies are clearly related to that threat."

RATIONALE

The next several weeks should tell whether Mr. Nixon's "protective reaction" rationale for the bombing now under way will go beyond attacking supplies near anti-aircraft emplacements.

Daniel Z. Henkin, assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, said last night that "I do not consider this" recent bombing "any change of policy."

He said bombing anti-aircraft sites was a protective reaction "to protect the lives of our pilots." He declined to discuss specific targets, rules of engagements or

number of planes involved in recent raids.

LAIRD

Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird gave no hint of big bombing raids against North Vietnam in a copyrighted interview given late last week to U.S. News & World Report and released yesterday.

The "understanding" with Hanoi, he said, is that the U.S. would not bomb North Vietnam if the North Vietnamese did not shell South Vietnamese population centers, infiltrate heavily or interfere with American reconnaissance planes.

Those provisions, Laird said, "have been violated occasionally but have been fairly well lived up to by Hanoi. There has been no major infiltration or attacks through the demilitarized zone.

"One aerial reconnaissance mission has been interfered with only rarely," he said. "When they have been interfered with, we've returned fire because our pilots are going to be protected."

If Hanoi did break understanding, however, Laird said, "I certainly wouldn't hesitate to recommend to the President that we pursue a different policy."

The Defense Secretary is a strong believer in trying to slow the flow of supplies northward through Laos by bombing the Ho Chi Minh trail. He said he would recommend keeping up the intensive bombing there even if the North Vietnamese took over Laos and demanded a halt.

"I'm for using American power to protect American lives," Laird said.

The weekend bombing raids against North Vietnam were witnessed from the ground by Robert S. Boyd, Washington bureau chief for the Knight Newspapers. In his account Sunday he told of watching a 50-minute raid on Friday from a place called Vo Minh, 18 miles north of the DMZ.

Boyd said that bombs fell to the west-southwest and to the west of Vo Minh. He said North Vietnamese authorities insisted there were no military targets in the rural areas where the bombs were falling.

The North Vietnamese,

Boyd wrote, said there had been frequent bombing raids on their territory since Nov. 1, 1968. The one before Friday's raid, they told him, had been April 19 in the Ni-Hhoa district. He quoted the Vo Minh chief as asserting that 511 of the village's 990 houses had been destroyed by bombs between May, 1965, and October, 1968.

Pentagon officials said last night that there had been "protective reaction" bombing of North Vietnam targets since November, 1968, but that this past weekend's raid was the biggest one since the halt.

The intensified military activity on several fronts is part of what one administration official described last night as a "get tough" policy. It is hoped that Hanoi will decide it makes more sense to negotiate an end to the war than to wait out the Americans.