

MAY 70

U.S. Bombs North Viet Gun Sites

Associated Press

Saigon

American warplanes attacked anti-aircraft guns in North Vietnam for the first time since the massive raids May 2-3, the U.S. Command said yesterday.

A communique said two Air Force F-4 Phantom fighter-bombers struck at gun positions about 100 miles north of the demilitarized zone after the enemy fired on an unarmed reconnaissance plane.

Results of the raid which took place Monday were unknown, and spokesmen said no U.S. planes were hit.

As in the past, the command described the attack as a "protective reaction . . . an inherent right of self-defense."

ESCORTS

U.S. reconnaissance aircraft and their armed escorts had flown unchallenged over North Vietnam since the first weekend in May when scores of planes ranged across the border and blasted gun and missile emplacements.

U.S. reconnaissance planes escorted by fighter-bombers have been photographing North Vietnamese defenses and troop and supply movements since the bombing halt of Nov. 1, 1968. Nine planes have been shot down since then — the last during the May 2 raids.

Elsewhere, enemy gunners shot down two U.S. helicop-

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ters in Cambodia and two in South Vietnam, and a fifth crashed on Cambodian soil from an unknown cause, spokesmen said.

LOSSES

The three copters lost in Cambodia, wounding six crewmen, brought to 28 the number of U.S. aircraft downed in Cambodia since the allied offensive was launched April 29.

Two Americans were killed and one was wounded in a light observation helicopter that was hit by enemy ground fire and exploded in the air about two miles from the Cambodian border and about 90 miles north of Saigon.

Four other Americans were killed when a medical evacuation helicopter was shot down near the Laotian border northwest of South Vietnam's A Shau Valley.

FIGHTING

Allied headquarters reported only light and fighting inside Cambodia, the discovery of enemy positions and for