

U.S. REPORTS RAID ON 3 MISSILE SITES

F-105's, Escorting B-52's,
Attack Foe's Installations
Inside North Vietnam
JAN 16 1971

By The Associated Press

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Saturday, Jan. 16—United States Air Force fighter-bombers escorting B-52's on raids along the Laotian-North Vietnamese border attacked three missile sites inside North Vietnam yesterday, military spokesmen reported.

The B-52's reportedly were raiding Ho Chi Minh Trail supply routes on the Laotian side of the border when sensing devices aboard the escorting planes picked up indications that missile sites on the North Vietnamese side of the border had begun tracking the aircraft preparatory to firing.

Missiles Are Fired

The United States Command said two F-105 fighter bombers fired three Shrike air-to-ground missiles at the three North Vietnamese positions. These positions did not fire, it added, and there was no damage to the American planes.

The strikes, termed "protective reaction" attacks by the command, were said to have been carried out 12 miles north of the Mugia Pass, about 80 miles north of the demilitarized zone, and 9 to 12 miles northeast of the Bankarai Pass, some 30 miles north of the buffer zone that straddles the border of North and South Vietnam.

"Protective reaction," the command said, is the "inherent right of self-defense."

These strikes were reported to have been the fifth attack of their kind carried out in the

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3 North Vietnam Reported Attack

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last week.

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