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TARGETS OF U.S. PLANES: Foe's supply trails were bombed in Laos (1) and northwest South Vietnam (2).

U.S. Saturation Air Raids Continuing in South Laos

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Special to The New York Times

SAIGON, South Vietnam, Jan. 29—Saturation raids were flown again today against North Vietnamese infiltration and supply routes in southern Laos, continuing what is described

here as one of the most intensive aerial campaigns of the Indochina war.

United States B-52's reportedly dropped hundreds of tons of bombs on the jungle-covered Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos.

[Infiltration routes in the northwest corner of South Vietnam adjoining the Lao-tian border were bombed by three B-52's, The Associated Press reported. The raid, it said, followed what a United States officer described as indications of an enemy build-up in the area, about 15 miles northwest of Khesanh.]

The United States command announced today, as it has almost every day in recent months, that other United States aircraft — helicopter gunships and smaller bombers — had flown direct combat-support missions in Laos for the Lao-tian forces.

The heavy aerial campaign in Laos reportedly has been going on since October.

Saigon Unit in Laos

In addition, South Vietnamese sources say, small-unit operations involving South Vietnamese forces have been conducted on the ground against the trail network in Laos, with ground troops being lifted in and out of key points along it.

Attempts to arrange peace talks between the Communist-led Pathet Lao rebels and the neutralist government of Prince Souvanna Phouma have not been successful.

Last July, when such attempts were in the preliminary stages, South Vietnam was reported to have assured the United States that it had no immediate plans for a large ground offensive into Laos, but was said to have left open the possibility of pursuit of enemy troops across the border.

The Ho Chi Minh Trail assumed key importance for the North Vietnamese, American officials say, when the Cambodian port of Kimpong Som was closed to them last spring after Prince Noudom Sihanouk was overthrown as Chief of State on March 18.

The trail consists of a network of parallel and primitive

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roads that leave North Vietnam at its southwestern border with Laos and follow the Annamite chain of mountains through that country down to Cambodia, branching off into South Vietnam at several points.

At briefings today on the progress of the war in South Vietnam, light and scattered action was reported. But the communique also said that American planes had continued to support allied ground operations in Cambodia since Monday, when the South Vietnamese ended their part of an allied operation that cleared the enemy from Route 4, Pnompenh's link to the sea.

Cambodian Sweep Continues

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, Jan. 29 (AP) — Government forces continued a sweep of outlying

areas around Pnompenh today in an effort to clear out enemy troops who have been harassing the capital's outer defense line. No significant contact was reported for a fourth day of the operation.

Lieut. Col. Am Rong, spokesman for the Cambodian command, said "the sweeps are designed primarily to cut off infiltration."

"There is no longer any danger of an attack force," he added.

The only fighting reported was a clash near Saang, 15 miles south of Pnompenh. Four Cambodians were wounded in the fifth day of fighting around the town.

In Pnompenh, a house-to-house search was under way for explosives following a series of terrorist bombings. Cambodian security forces yesterday seized 500 pounds of plastic explosives in the search, concentrated in the Chinese and Vietnamese quarters.