

Almost the entire fleet of American bombers and fighter planes in Southeast Asia flew missions today in Laos and Cambodia in support of South Vietnamese and Laotian Government operations in Laos and Cambodia. The AP's sources in Saigon said that a total of between 1,200 and 1,500 planes are operating from bases in Thailand and South Vietnam and from aircraft carriers in the Gulf of Tonkin.

Most of the missions today were flown against positions around the town of Sepone in southern Laos. South Vietnamese forces entered the town on Saturday [6 Mar]. Other bombing missions were flown against various positions along the Ho Chi Min Trail in Laos and against anti-government forces in northern Laos. American planes also supported South Vietnamese operations in two sections of Cambodia.

The commander of the South Vietnamese troops in the Laotian invasion, Lt. Gen. ^{Hoang Kuan Lam} ~~Huang Suan Lam~~ [phonetic], told reporters today, "The North Vietnamese are being reinforced north of Sepone, but we can handle it. We can react to anything they do. We caught the North Vietnamese by surprise by sending 2,000 men into Sepone in two days. We occupied the city." The commander said there are now between 20,000 and 24,000 South Vietnamese troops in Laos.